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LD0308130088 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Khamene'i Doubt on Peace—In light of Iraq's "obstructionist behavior," the prospect of ending the war and achieving peace through UN Resolution 598 is "extremely doubtful and suspect," Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i declared in a 2 August speech broadcast by Tehran radio.

Reaffirming Iran's rejection of the Iraqi call for direct talks, Khamene'i told his audience in Ahvaz that if Iraq lays down preconditions, Iran will likewise insist on its former condition: "the punishment of the aggressor."

The U.S. secretary general's plan for implementing Resolution 598 is "acceptable" to Iran, he said, but "if there are to be preconditions then this one is ours."

While contending that Iran's acceptance of the UN resolution did not stem from weakness, Khamene'i stressed that "top priority" must be given to strengthening the Armed Forces, noting that a peace which is not supported by a defensive force would be "very shaky."

Iranian negotiators must take care not to make "the slightest mistake" in the talks on implementing the resolution, he said, and Iran must under no circumstances accept any "bullying and imposition," particularly on the definition of the recognized borders between the two countries.

On internal affairs, Khamene'i called for the punishment of those "insensitive young men" who covered themselves and their families in "disgrace" by dodging military service.

Meanwhile, Council of Guardians member Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati addressed the "huge" rally held in Tehran to reaffirm allegiance to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, IRNA reported.

Resolutions passed by the marchers included a confirmation of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri as Khomeyni's successor and a call for "revenge" on the United States and the Saudi rulers at the "appropriate" time.

Diplomacy—Diplomatic sources at the United Nations revealed that the UN secretary general intends to unilaterally set a date for implementing Resolution 598 without holding further talks with Iraq, Tehran radio reported 3 August.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati had earlier confirmed that Iran and the secretary general agree on "nearly all" the technical issues related to the resolution, according to the radio.

Velayati also told Tehran television that the UN report on Iraq's use of chemical weapons puts the latter under "international political pressure," "face-to-face" with the Security Council.

The Iraqi delegation in New York warned in a statement cited by INA that nobody should harbor "illusions" that Iraq will accept a "fait accompli" on the cease-fire issue.

Reaffirming Iraq's call for direct talks to test Iran's intentions, the Iraqi delegation spokesman claimed the Iranians are only seeking a cease-fire because of their recent defeats and so they may "catch their breath."

The Iranians have not committed themselves to a comprehensive and lasting peace and have used the term "cease-fire" rather than "peace," he maintained.

Diplomatic support for Iraq was expressed by the Arab League's seven-member committee on the Iran-Iraq war, which issued a statement in Baghdad welcoming Iraq's call for direct negotiations as "a sign of good intentions and a desire to implement the resolution as quickly as possible," according to INA.

The committee members were received by President Saddam Husayn during their visit to the Iraqi capital, the agency noted.

INA also reported that Saudi King Fahd told a visiting Iraqi envoy of the Kingdom's support for Iraq's "just stance" on the need for a comprehensive peace, as provided for in the full text of the UN resolution.

The Iraqi envoy, First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, had earlier visited Bahrain, where the amir said his country is "on the side of the Iraqi attitude," INA disclosed.

Ramadan subsequently continued his mission with a visit to the YAR, Sanaa radio noted.

For Iran's part, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati held talks in Muscat 1 August with the sultan of Oman, who described Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 as "brave and wise," according to IRNA.

Besharati subsequently held talks with the UAE defense minister in Dubayy, IRNA revealed.

Meanwhile, another Iranian envoy held talks in Khartoum with the Sudanese prime minister, the agency said.

Military Developments—Iraqi warplanes raided two "industrial-labor units" in the Provinces of Bushehr and Khuzestan 3 August, IRNA announced.

Iraqi aircraft bombed a region in Western Azarbayjan the previous day, according to Tehran radio.

In a report cited by MENA, the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD stated that Iran has begun withdrawing IRGC forces from Lebanon.

PLO and Jordan

During a 2 August meeting in Baghdad, the PLO Executive Committee called on the PNC to hold an emergency meeting within 1 month to discuss "means of supporting the uprising," a PLO source disclosed in a statement cited by INA.

The announcement followed a 3-day session of the PLO Central Council (PCC), the intermediate body between the Executive Committee and the PNC.

The Iraqi agency noted that the PCC discussed topics related to Palestinian action and the Palestinian uprising.

Regarding PLO policy in the wake of Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank, a PLO official cited by the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD disclosed that the PLO is studying a proposal to ask the United Nations to place the West Bank and Gaza under UN supervision, WAKH reported.

"Sources close to the PLO" stated it is now time for the PLO to establish a provisional Palestinian "government" to administer Palestinian affairs in the occupied territories, Radio Monte Carlo noted.

Among East Jerusalem press comment on King Husayn's move, AL-FAJR expressed concern it will divide Palestinians between those inside and outside the occupied territories, making the PLO the sole legitimate representative of Palestinian residents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip only.

This could reinforce the settlement of Palestinians in Jordan as an "alternative homeland," something the PLO has always rejected, the paper added.

AL-NAHAR, which is more favorable to Husayn, warned that the suffering of the Palestinian people may increase because the PLO will not be able to carry out administrative and executive tasks under the Israeli occupation.

Nevertheless, AL-SHA'B reported the PLO is preparing plans and arrangements to fill the gap which Jordan will leave after disengagement.

Israel: Occupied Territories

A Palestinian man was killed by an IDF patrol during violent disturbance 2 August in Nablus, Jerusalem radio reported.

The man was shot as he "was about to hurl" [illegible] at the soldiers, the radio added.

In the Hebron area, two Arabs were injured in a clash with the Army outside Dura, the radio noted.

Security forces uncovered a "terrorist cell" in Bayt Immar whose members are suspected of throwing firebombs, the radio announced.

"Terrorist cells" were also discovered in the Ramallah region, the radio stated.

The Army destroyed the homes of 10 members of the "terror gangs" and security forces sealed two other houses belonging to gang members, the radio added.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed "regret" over the U.S. denunciation of Israel's deportation of eight Palestinians to Lebanon, YEDI'OT AHARONOT reported.

Israel cannot take into account the U.S. concern about a "worsening" in the uprising when it is involved in a struggle "over its very existence," Shamir insisted.

The IDF chief censor rescinded an order to close the newspaper HADASHOT's printing shop for 1 week when the paper's management apologized for publishing a report on new IDF appointments without first submitting it for censorship, Jerusalem radio reported.

Egypt

The Foreign Minister issued a statement supporting Jordan's decision to "sever ties" with the West Bank, Cairo radio announced.

He said Egypt is confident the PLO realizes its "national resonsibilities" toward the Palestinian people.

A "responsible source" at the Foreign Ministry condemned Israel's deportation of eight Palestinians to Lebanon, calling the act a "serious violation" of international norms, MENA disclosed.

Lebanon

Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah told an Arab newspaper that he "feels" the U.S. hostages will be released on the day of or "shortly after" the U.S. presidential election because to hold them after that time would be "worthless," according to IDF radio.

However, Fadlallah said in an interview with AFP that the United States is not showing any "positive signs" in its attitude toward the hostage issue.

He reiterated Iran's call for Washington to release frozen Iranian assets, saying to do so would be "only normal."

Two British and one German hostage will be released in the "near future" after recent successful "intensive efforts" to make the arrangements, according to "prominent sources" cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

The agreement is part of a "large deal" which includes the Hamadah brothers now detained in the FRG, the sources explained.

An FRG Government spokesman denied the rumor and refuted a claim by the Syrian defense minister that a ransom was paid for the release last September of hostage Alfred Schmidt, DPA reported.

The spokesman said the Syrian minister, who was quoted by the FRG's STERN, was "misinformed."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Mubarak Mediation Between Husayn, 'Arafat Noted

JN0208154188 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 1 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that President Husni Mubarak has succeeded in his mediation to hold a summit meeting between Jordan's King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Amman within days.

During his recent meeting with King Husayn, President Mubarak tried to break the ice between the PLO and Amman to coordinate their positions before the forthcoming visit of Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, to the region this month.

President Mubarak also succeeded in persuading King Husayn to cancel Jordan's development plan in the West Bank and to enable the PLO to run Palestinian affairs in the West Bank.

AL-WAFD also learned 'Arafat has recently issued instructions to the PLO leaderships in the various world capitals to stress in the next stage the strength of Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

AL-WAFD also learned President Mubarak asked King Husayn to intercede with Syria to persuade President Hafiz al-Asad to suspend the process of eliminating the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and to lift the siege on the camps.

Seven-Member Committee Meetings Begin in Baghdad

JN0208104688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—Meetings of the Arab seven-member committee entrusted with following up the developments of the Iraq-Iran war began here this morning.

The meetings were chaired by Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and minister of state for foreign affairs, and attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister.

Taking part in the meetings are Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, YAR Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ahmad al-Iryani, and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

In a speech inaugurating the meetings, Sa'dun Hammadi welcomed the members of the committee and praised the seven-member committee's effective and successful efforts toward reaching a just, comprehensive, and durable peace between Iraq and Iran.

He also affirmed the importance of a more effective role by the Arab seven-member committee during the present time and of continuing its diplomatic action to reach an entrenched and just peace.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Central Council Concludes Baghdad Meetings

JN0208120488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—The PLO Central Council (PCC) concluded its 3-day meetings here today. During the meetings, the PCC discussed several topics related to Palestinian action and the Palestinian uprising.

The meetings, which were chaired by PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, were attended by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The PCC issued a political statement on the outcome of its meeitngs concerning the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and ways of supporting and escalating it, the situation in the Palestinian arena, the challenges facing the Palestinian revolution, and the aggressions against the Palestinian camps in lebanon.

The PCC is considered the link between the PNC and the PLO.

PLO Considering UN Supervision of West Bank

JN0308082288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Aug (WAKH)—Press reports here today said the PLO is currently studying a proposal to be presented to the United Nations to put the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the supervision of the United Nations following Jordan's decision disengaging legal and administrative relations with the West Bank.

Citing an unidentified Palestinian official, the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD said this proposal is currently under intensified study by the PLO and that the Arab group at the United Nations is also holding consultations and contacts with the UN Security Council's permanent member states with the aim of learning their stands toward this proposal.

The Palestinian official added that the UN General Secretariat is currently studying the legal status of the West Bank and the UN responsibility toward this issue, especially since the provisions of international law consider the West Bank as part of Jordanian territory occupied by Israel.

Algeria

President Interviewed on Foreign Relations

PM0208101488 Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA in French 26 Jul 88 p 12

[Unattributed interview with President Chadli Benjedid granted to monthly ARABIES; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Interviewer] What significance do you attach to the restoration of diplomatic relations with Morocco?

[Benjedid] Our determination to spare no effort to accelerate the process of building a united Arab Greater Maghreb constitutes an initial reply. Added to this is the fact Algeria does not accept the inevitability of division and refuses to resign itself to the continuation of an abnormal situation between fraternal and neighboring countries.

The severing of diplomatic relations followed disagreements over the Western Sahara issue, on which Algeria supported a referendum for the Saharan people's self-determination and Morocco maintained a different stance.

Now Morocco and the Saharan leaders are cooperating with the OAU deputy chairman and the UN secretary general in defining the conditions for a ceasefire and a referendum for the Saharan people's self-determination. Within this context the restoration of Algerian-Moroccan diplomatic relations will facilitate the return of peace to Western Sahara in accordance with our peoples' aspirations and the international community's wishes.

Within the Arab context this step has already produced results, contributing to the the success of the special Arab summit and to the Arab world's support for the Palestinian people's cause and their rising in the occupied territories.

[Interviewer] What is the situation regarding Western Sahara following the restoration of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Morocco?

[Benjedid] The restoration of Algerian-Moroccan relations cannot fail to have a positive impact on the process of a peaceful settlement of the Western Saharan conflict. A process of dialogue and rapprochement has been established in the region and it will naturally extend to the two sides involved in the conflict.

For its part, Algeria unreservedly supports the efforts of the United Nations and OAU and remains willing to facilitate a direct or indirect dialogue between the belligerent parties. This has always been its position.

By clarifying the situation, the resumption of relations with Morocco makes us better able to perform our role for the sake of a just and lasting peace in Western Sahara.

[Interviewer] Morocco maintains special relations with the United States, as Libya does with the USSR. Furthermore Tripoli and Rabat have very different systems. Does this not constitute a difficulty in the way of Maghrebi unity?

[Benjedid] Our ambition is to achieve a united, stable, and nonaligned Maghrebi entity—genuinely nonaligned and therefore resistant to the status of zone of influence or obedience. Within such an outlook it is natural for the Maghrebi countries—either individually or collectively—to be able to promote relations of friendship and cooperation with the partners of their choice.

It is important that their foreign relations be based on the principles of nonalignment proclaimed by all the region's countries. Meanwhile the improvement of inter-Maghrebi relations and the restored trust will make a crucial contribution to strengthening nonalignment in the Maghreb.

With regard to the differences between the Maghrebi countries' political systems, since diversity is a source of mutual enrichment the task of Maghrebi unity must derive the maximum benefit from it to further its own progress.

[Interview] Algeria maintains good relations with both Iraq and Iran. How is it possible to end this devastating war that is tearing the Muslim world apart?

[Benjedid] The world has realized the extreme gravity of the continuing conflict, with its vast toll of precious human lives and material destruction...not to mention the real dangers of its spreading through the Gulf region and its related international complications.

With the Security Council's adoption of Resolution 598 in July last year the international community at last responded vigorously by establishing all the necessary elements of a solution.

This platform retains every chance of success as long as the UN secretary general's efforts are strengthened and extended by all people of goodwill. Despite the difficulties and obstacles in the way of peace, everything must be done to achieve a just and honorable solution of this conflict.

You are acquainted with Algeria's efforts and know the sacrifices that it has accepted to make its contribution to peace. So we will not disarm because we refuse to resign ourselves to rationale behind this conflict, suicidal for the two fraternal countries and the entire Muslim world.

[Interviewer] How do you view the future of Franco-Algerian relations?

[Benjedid] Algerian-French relations have always been good overall. Whenever difficulties in the management of our shared dealings have occurred we have succeeded in clearing the way to lasting solutions satisfactory to both countries.

For some time we have been encountering problems of balance in our trade relations. It is not the result of any ill will on either side. It is, rather, the result of the more general difficulties that our economy is experiencing very profoundly because of its youngness and relative fragility.

The difficulties encountered in gas exports are of particular significance in this context because of their importance in our economic relations.

What is certain is that lasting and solid solutions are developing on both sides, both in the case of gas and with regard to all the problems that we are encountering on the economic and human planes.

Talks have never been broken off, the aim being that economic relations always remain intense, equally profitable, and set within a framework of calm political relations. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Ambassadors Approved

Several governments have given their approval to the appointment of Algerian ambassadors. The British Government approved the appointment of Mr Abdelkader Hadj Azzout, the Venezuelan Government approved the appointment of Mr Slimane Bendjedid, the Cameroonian Government approved the appointment of Algerian Ambassador Missoum Sbai, and the Albanian Government approved the appointment of Mr Lekkam Mohamed. [Text] [*LD3107003988 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 30 Jul 88*]

Egypt

U.S. Reaction to Jordanian Decision Examined

NC0308083788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—In Wednesday's editions, the AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR newspapers comment on the Jordanian monarch's decision to separate the West Bank from Jordan administratively and legally.

AL-AHRAM says that the PLO must, in the wake of this decision, prove its capability to shoulder this new responsibility toward the Palestinian people in the West Bank, something which it has long demanded. The paper adds that the PLO should have prepared itself for this day and made plans and devised suitable methods by which administrative and financial authority would be transferred to it in order to avoid a vacuum that would harm the Palestinian people, especially at a time when they are at the apex of their heroic struggle against the forces of occupation.

The paper adds that the PLO's responsibility became greater after the decision to separate because it now holds the threads of providing actual support to the Palestinian people today and every day, organizing their lives, and administering their affairs in a way that will make them more able to continue their uprising.

The paper notes that the PLO's policies in this respect may be the decisive factor leading either to certain success or dismal failure.

In conclusion, the paper asserts that while the Arab world is urged to extend all possible assistance to the PLO in this test, the PLO itself now has a greater role in proving the truth of the Palestinian, Arab, and international view that it is the true and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Commenting on the U.S. reaction to Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties between Jordan and the West Bank, AL-AKHBAR describes it as "wondrously strange."

The paper remarks that the U.S. reaction demonstrates the continued U.S. commitment not to carry out any direct contact with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, which must participate fully in every attempt to establish real peace in the region.

The paper says the U.S. position undermines that country's credibility and raises doubts about its desire to continue seeking a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The paper emphasizes that unless the PLO participates in efforts to settle the crisis, there will be no hope of restoring peace to the Middle East.

Cairo To Oppose U.S. Embassy Move to Jerusalem

PM0208154188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Aug 88 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Islamic-Arab Moves To Prevent Washington From Moving Its Embassy to Jerusalem"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have emphasized that Egypt has decided to make urgent contacts with the Arab and Islamic states to coordinate diplomatic efforts and draw up a joint plan for political maneuvering with a view to preventing the U.S. Administration from issuing a decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem in view of the amendment endorsed by Congress.

The sources said Egypt has suggested to the ICO that the Jerusalem Committee, headed by King Hassan II, be called to discuss the matter, issue a statement explaining the Islamic states' viewpoint in this regard, and consider forming a delegation of foreign ministers from Arab and Islamic states to visit the United States and meet with U.S. Administration officials and congressional leaders to explain the Islamic and Arab viewpoint and the danger that such a decision would pose to Arab and Islamic relations with the United States, since some Arab and Islamic states would consider severing their relations with Washington if such a decision is made.

The sources pointed out that Egypt's initial position on the Jerusalem issue has not changed; Egypt will comply with any unanimous resolutions adopted by the Islamic States Organization [name of organization as published] in this regard, especially as it severed relations with states that moved their embassies to Jerusalem, including El Salvador and Honduras.

The sources revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the messages exchanged between former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat of 17 September 1977 reflected the Egyptian position on the Jerusalem question, considering it an integral part of the West Bank which must be under Arab sovereignty. Besides, Security Council resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 267, must be implemented with regard to Jerusalem. In addition, the measures Israel has taken to change the status of the city are both null and void and their effects should be eliminated.

Sudanese Party Leader Al-Mirghani Arrives

NC0308084388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of Sudan's Democratic Unionist Party, arrived here leading a party delegation on a 10-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Received by Mubarak

NC0308122588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of Sudan's Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] and patron of the Al-Khatmiyah sect in Sudan, and the delegation accompanying him, this morning. The DUP leader and the accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo earlier today.

Saudi Minister Comments on Meeting With Mubarak

NC0308101488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug 88 (MENA)—Following his meeting with President Mubarak today, Dr Alwai Darwish Kayyal, Saudi minister of posts, telephones, and telegraph, disclosed that their talks had dealt with ways of promoting Egyptian-Saudi cooperation in all fields. He added that during the meeting President Mubarak had welcomed the upcoming visit to Egypt by Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, noting the visit will take place soon, God willing.

Regarding Egyptian-Saudi cooperation in the field of communications, the Saudi minister said that such cooperation exists at the present time, noting that the number of telephone calls between Egypt and Saudi Arabia has increased from 300,000 calls in 1982 to approximately 60 million annual calls at present.

He added his discussions with Minister Sulayman Mutawalli centered on how bilateral cooperation could benefit from the Arab satellite "Arabsat," as well as how the services of the marine cables linking the two countries could be improved.

Sudan

Prime Minister Receives Iran's Sheykh ol-Eslam

LD0308075688 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Iran's deputy foreign minister for Afro-Arab affairs, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam met with Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in Khartoum Tuesday and presented a message from Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi of Iran.

The message is dealing with the recent developments in Iraq-Iran war and Iran's acceptance of the UN Security Council Resolution 598. Sheykh ol-Eslam stressed that Iran is after a lasting peace within the framework of the resolution and added that all articles of the resolution must be implemented unconditionally.

He told the Sudanese premier that in the light of the recent Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities and Iraq's hindrance of the implementation of the resolution, Iraq is responsible for any delay in establishment of peace.

Sheykh ol-Eslam who arrived in Khartoum Monday night stressed that Iran is fully ready to implement the resolution. He expressed satisfaction with the improvement in relations between Iran and Sudan and said that Iran was ready to work for further strengthening of cultural, political and economic ties.

The Sudanese premier hailed Iran's acceptance of the resolution and added that all Islamic countries should make use of this opportunity for establishement of peace in the region.

Al-Mahdi also stressed the need for full implementation of the resolution and called for withdrawal of foreign forces from the region. He said that under peace new potentials will be created for furthering mutual relations, adding that his country welcomed such a development.

Meanwhile Sheykh ol-Eslam met and conferred with Sudanese ministers of foreign affairs and culture Tuesday morning.

Sudan's Foreign Minister Abu Saih said in his talks with the Iranian envoy that following Iran's acceptance of the resolution it was the responsibility of all peace-loving countries to utilize this positive development and help establish peace. He said establishment of the cease-fire was the first step for ending the conflict.

Control of Darfur, Chadian Presence Discussed

EA0208162888 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Aug 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Naval Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad Ali, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, confirmed that the Armed Forces are in control of the situation in Darfur Region. He added the Defense Ministry would issue a statement in a few days to clarify all the facts.

His excellency said: Seven members of Ibn Umar's forces who were captured recently arrived in Al-Fashir. He said Ibn Umar's forces had agreed to surrender their arms and equipment to the Armed Forces because their goal was reconciliation, not war.

On the arrival of Chadian forces in the region, his excellency denied knowledge of the entry or presence of any forces in the region.

SPLA To Halt Propaganda During Talks With DUP

EA0208173288 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] The official SPLA/SPLM spokesman told SPLA radio this morning that as of yesterday, 1 August 1988, the movement had decided to stop hostile propaganda and information campaigns against retired Major General Peter Cyrillo, the former governor of Equatoria, and Maj Gen Paulino Matib Nhial [commander in chief of Anya Nya II], in the interest of the unity of the Sudanese masses.

The spokesman added: The SPLA will also cease all forms of hostile propaganda and information against Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani and the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] in the interests of the talks being held between delegations of the DUP and the SPLA/SPLM.

This serves and promotes the cause of peace and demonstrates respect for the ethics of dialogue. He added that it is socially and politically unbecoming to maintain information campaigns and attacks against an interlocutor.

Tunisia

Party Congress Adopts Economic Affairs Resolution

LD0108114788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0925 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Resolution on general and economic affairs adopted by Democratic Constitutional Rally at Palace of Congresses in Tunis on 31 July]

[Excerpts] [Passage indistinct] these challenges which had been tackled by the reform program in the 7-year plan [words indistinct]. The Democratic Constitutional Rally believes that our civilized origins, with an Arab Maghreb, Arab, and Islamic affiliation, calls on us to deepen the ties of linkage and solidarity, and to build a collective structure in which economic planning occupies a distinguished place for confronting the challenges of the modern world.

While beginning a period of balanced political liberation, Tunisia is called upon at the same time to continue its balanced economic liberation policy. The Democratic Constitutional Rally has the responsibility of liberating this homeland, building the state, and laying down the foundations of development. The party finds itself today facing a much stronger and more dangerous challenge than before.

It is the challenge of entering the policies and economics of advanced societies, societies which rely on man and in whose hands economic development, social development, and political stability lie. [passage omitted]

The congress affirms that establishing a balanced, free, developed, and strong society calls upon us to be selfless in our work. All members of society need to give and sacrifice irrespective of their individual status. This requires abandoning the behavior of the past and discarding the most dangerous of all—reliance on others, total dependence on the state, and forgetting the spirit of relying on oneself. We must also discard the erroneous behavior which demands more without an increase in production or improvement of productivity. [passage omitted]

The congress reaffirms the need to restructure the economy firmly and resolutely in accordance with a clear program and measures which ensure (?efficiency). One must also intensify its implementation and the interest of the national community must be safeguarded. On this basis the Rally stresses that restructuring does not mean separating the state from its responsibilities. However, it falls within a comprehensive visualization of the state's role in all that falls within the new stage of the country's development.

The congress, in taking all these considerations into account, views the state's role in the future as follows:

Continuing direct intervention in all non-competitive sectors and in the new sectors which the private sector is not able to exploit during the current stage, and carrying out projects of a social nature. The state will also continue to take care of, and directly intervene in, sectors in the nation's interest, in order that they remain under state control. [passage omitted]

From the standpoint of the state relinquishing control of the competetive sectors, the role of private organizations should grow in order to participate to a greater degree in the development process. On this basis the congress sees the need to provide a better atmosphere to encourage the private sector and to encourage initiatives.

This is done by restoring respectability to the businessman and improving the public image of the private enterprise so that its vital role in contributing to building the country's future is appreciated. [passage omitted]

Restore respectability to profit-making and legitimate gains, and encourage reinvestment. Encourage the participation of workers in capital investment and grant awards on the basis of organization productivity.

To safeguard the healthy state of public organizations, the congress recommends that administrative pressures on them should be lifted and that interference must end so that they may experience the same work conditions as those of the private sector. [passage omitted]

The congress believes that the cooperative framework which is based on [words indistinct] and rationalized basis represents a healthy trend for the organizations which operate within the services sector, especially the agricultural ones. The state should look after it and encourage it. The new economic trend in the country calls for unifying the efforts of all groups—trade, vocational, consumer, and other unions—to ensure its success and the realization of its aims without deviation.

These groups should abandon their tendency to demand wage hikes and should take part in a constructive, enlightened, and rational manner in pursuing economic goals and providing the necessary guarantees for success. This should not prejudice the right of every side to proper recompense. [passage omitted]

Section II: Fair Distribution of the Fruits of Development

Economic liberation today has become the basic instrument for establishing genuine justice in distributing the fruits of development. The experience of advanced societies reflects this clearly. Distribution is impossible without production. The greater the production, the greater is the share of everyone benefiting from its fruits. Therefore, any system which promotes production necessarily paves the way for more fair play and a balanced general welfare. [passage omitted]

Tunisia today, while aspiring to lay the foundations of a developed economy, should set its priorities in order of merit to ensure steady growth capable of confronting pressures and numerous changes.

Granting priority to certain sectors does not mean neglecting other sectors, because the country's economy is treated as an indivisible whole. For this reason, the congress recommends attention to the following sectors: agriculture and maritime fishing; the construction industry engaged in exports; advanced technology industries; tourism; export services; or enterprises which complement the other productive sectors while at the same time preserving the environment.

With regard to agriculture and maritime fishing, the congress thinks these two sectors must be given absolute priority to win the battle for food self-sufficiency [applause], balancing food trade, and raising the economic and social levels of rural society; safeguarding our national asset of cultivable land and protecting it against desertification, erosion, neglect, improper use, and building development. [passage omitted]

The future of small industries is linked to their ability to change to keep up with the requirements of external markets and their ability to compete with similar industries. This can only be achieved through control of advanced technology, rationalizing production methods, and a sound structure. This calls for reexamining the work systems of industrial organizations to strengthen their ability to absorb the available data, the requirements of domestic and external markets, and to develop their ability to absorb advanced technology.

Regarding state intervention, the state is called upon to give more attention to its major role as a planner and legislator: guiding industrial development, carrying out strategic studies, and setting standards of quality; reeducating the professions; protecting the consumer; and discussing projects in new fields.

The public sector must play a major role in creating new industrial opportunities which surpass the resources of the private sector and necessitate creation of new training and modern technology through close cooperation with the institutions and qualified cadres of universities. [passage omitted]

Concerning traditional handicrafts, the congress feels that the national bureau for traditional handicrafts should be totally devoted to its basic task—training and helping craftsmen with their projects, improving the supply of raw materials, improving the marketing of these products, and keeping a check on product quality. [passage omitted]

With regard to mining, the congress calls for increasing geological research to find substitute primary materials and raw materials for processing industries in order to boost the economic activity in the mining sector. It also

recommends purging the organizations and their methods of work. Consultation and coordination among Maghreb countries should be intensified in export marketing. This applies in particular to phosphates. [passage omitted on the role played by the services sector in the development of the economy]

In the communications and transportation field, the congress calls for lowering the cost of transportation and improving services, especially by encouraging competition and giving a chance to the private sector to intensify competitive activities. A legal framework should be implemented to encourage private investment in the maritime and air transport sectors according to the needs and resources of the country.

The telecommunications sector should be reorganized and developed. Priority should be given to improving the equipment in the interior of the country to provide favorable conditions for development of the less privileged areas within a plan that coordinates road and railway transport. The internal transport network should be improved to benefit the economy and strengthen Tunisia's links with outside markets within the framework of encouraging exports.

Section IV: Encouraging Investment, Directing Finance Toward Economic Priorities, and Controlling the Credit Policy

While approving all the reform measures aimed at rationalizing investment and the best use of existing economic means and available resources, the congress recommends:

1. To strengthen the ability of the country to create and design projects to enable economists to enter foreign markets, especially when the domestic market will not make it possible to continue customary projects as in the past, projects which are basically directed toward domestic demand. This would require a studies strategy which defines priorities, exploits data on international trade, and facilitates the work of the studies bureaus.

2. To encourage external investment and incorporation of export organizations into the industrial fabric, while defining the available resources in this field, especially in the direction of the common Maghreb structure which today is witnessing a movement greater than ever before and which must be exploited with speed and resourcefulness.

3. After removing all the obstacles and barriers which still hinder investors, new and decisive decisions should be taken. These decisions concern the adoption of a new system (?to build a structure) that is in greater harmony with the requirements of the policy of economic liberation and which meets the need to establish an international financial market in Tunisia.

Security should be provided for the investors. This should be done by introducing laws and drawing up clear and unchanging policies which have clear outlines, especially when it comes to sector plans and (?safeguarding) rights and providing protection. Organizations which face difficulties must be restructured and their activities switched to worthwhile sectors. [passage omitted]

Concerning foreign loans, the congress considers foreign borrowing a basic supplement to national savings in financing projects when invested in a useful manner which guarantees the payment of debts in a natural manner. Therefore, the congress stresses the need to find the best solutions to avoid bad effects such as those occurring since the early 1980's when foreign borrowing was determined by domestic factors, basically manifested in an excessive rise in domestic demand which exceeded the rate of production and as a result of the foreign influences, such as fluctuations in the foreign exchange markets.

In this connection, the congress affirms the need to bolster the proposals of the head of state to the heads of state and government of the seven industrialized countries, basically calling for reducing debt payments and the interest on all loans. [passage omitted]

Section V: Building the Maghreb and Common Arab and Islamic Support and Deepening and Diversifying International Economic Cooperation

Since 7 November, Tunisia has been prominent in political and international diplomacy, especially in the Maghreb, Arab, and African arenas. While expressing pride in this great political gain, which will inevitably reflect well in the economic field, the congress places on record its great satisfaction in the wisdom, boldness, balance, and independence that has characterized the Tunisian initiatives in the last few months, which has contributed to a great world appreciation of our country.

On this basis, the congress recommends continuing work to strengthen positive and disinterested integration and cooperation with fraternal and friendly countries, foremost of which are the Maghreb, Arab, Islamic, African, and Mediterranean countries.

Concerning Maghreb integration, which we seek to establish with firm, strong, and clear foundations, the congress endorses historic transformations in the Maghreb and expresses satisfaction with the positive results of the fifth summit recently held in fraternal Algeria.

It looks forward with all confidence to future steps, hoping the Maghreb countries will succeed as soon as possible in drawing up a reasonable, effective, and realistic concept of a Maghreb entity, which has become an inevitable requirement dictated by objective factors and the challenges of international groupings.

To realize this project, which is considered a basic step toward building comprehensive Maghreb unity, the congress sees a need for all concerned parties to adopt a dynamic interim plan which will enable the regional economies to adjust to regional integration, while at the same time promoting an economic Maghreb without frontiers capable of exploiting the material and manpower resources in the area and employing them in the best way possible in the interest of the Maghreb community. [applause]

On the other hand, and in as much as Tunisia believes in the idea of Maghreb unity, the congress considers this idea as a positive step toward the rise of an Arab, Islamic integrated economic grouping. Tunisia, which is very proud of its civilized affiliation with Arabism and Islam and which adheres to Arab and Islamic solidarity, calls for more support for collective action in order to promote balanced development.

It also stresses the need to apply the principle of integration and solidarity in a way that guarantees a diversified contribution by the countries to finance their joint needs and strengthen mutual support for all that advances their peoples, strengthens their solidarity, and affirms the unity of their destiny.

To safeguard the march in this direction, the congress calls for distancing economic action from political disagreements, as this tends to strengthen economic relations and guarantees the continuation of joint cooperation providing a firm basis for solidarity and integration at various levels.

At another level, and taking into consideration Tunisia's strong desire to increase support for its African ties, the congress recommends intensified cooperation with African countries. In this connection, the congress sees great prospects for Tunisia to cooperate with Africa in various economic and financial fields.

In addition to cooperation with African countries in the framework of bilateral relations, the congress sees wide opportunities for supporting this cooperation within a Maghreb-African framework and within a broader Arab-African framework.

The congress believes that Tunisia has bases for rapprochement, and experience and diversified relations with the countries of the Mediterranean which must be entrenched in a framework of mutual interest. These relations should be harmonized with the new development of our economy and the establishing of a Mediterranean entity that is capable of intensifying cooperation between the countries on both coasts of the Mediterranean—north and south. This would contribute to comprehensive economic development and to entrenching social and political stability in the area.

The congress sees that the relationship with European states, and the European Economic Community in particular, is reaching an important stage of development requiring great attention within the framework of interacting with a unified Europe in 1992. Therefore, ways and methods must be found to safeguard our place in this community and to develop it.

The congress believes that Tunisia, because of its geostrategic position and its distinguished relations with the various sides, can become a trade center—regional and Maghreb—to boost exchanges between the Maghreb, Arab, Islamic, African, and Mediterranean countries, and an international financial center for Arab and Islamic investment.

The congress also feels there are extensive opportunities to strengthen relations with the countries of North America in many fields, especially trade and technology. It is imperative to promote fields and methods of cooperation with the other states and economic communities in South America, Asia, and the socialist countries. There are no real barriers which prevent the devlopment of our exchanges with them.

There is another aspect of cooperation which is very important for strengthening our development—cooperation with international and regional organizations. In order to best exploit this cooperation it is necessary to develop these relations. Prominent qualified personnel should be nominated to represent Tunisia at these organizations.

The development of external cooperation in all fields and at all levels requires the drafting of a comprehensive and integrated plan, based in particular on reexamining our diplomatic and information system so that we can publicize our potential in foreign markets. We also need to revise the legal framework, the transport structure, communications and the banking sector, as well as other sectors for this purpose.

Finally, and taking into consideration all that has been mentioned previously, the congress considers that in this stage of its economic life—having been liberated by the 7 November declaration from the fetters of suppression and freed of political and psychological fetters—Tunisia is called upon to prepare, by developing its economy, to compete with the economies of the advanced countries.

This is to be achieved by liberating the economy and a steady dynamism in a social climate that is dominated by accord and fraternity, guarantees the minimum requirements of life and, in a time which is not far off, realizes the general well-being. (Peace and blessings) of God be upon you. [applause]

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Monte Carlo: Freighter Sinks in Strait of Hormuz

JN0308081788 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] According to Gulf shipping sources an explosion occurred aboard a small freighter flying the Philippines flag in the Strait of Hormuz today. The freighter sank, but a French Navy vessel rescued the freighter's seven-member crew. The cause of the incident is not yet known.

Bahrain

Iraqi Envoy Ramadan Holds Meeting With Amir

JN0208132588 Baghdad INA in English 1225 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Manama, Aug 2, INA—Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received here today President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, member of the Revolution Command Council and Iraq's first deputy premier Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan.

During the meeting, Mr. Ramadan conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman including the greetings of President Saddam Husayn and appreciation of Iraq's leadership and people for the Bahraini real national attitudes.

Mr. Ramadan informed Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman about the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the efforts exerted to establish peace. He also stressed Iraq's attitude to achieve a real, comprehensive and permanent peace through direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran and implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 598 according to the sequence of its operative articles and in accordance with specified timings to implement each one of the resolution articles as well as Iraq's rejection of cease-fire only because the peace issue is complete, comprehensive and correlated.

Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman asked Mr. Ramadan to convey his congratulations to President Saddam Husayn on the Iraqi victories stressing that they are victories for all the Arabs.

The amir of Bahrain said that his country's attitude vis-a-vis Resolution No. 598 is on the side of the Iraqi attitude aimed at achieving a complete and real peace because Iraq's stand is real and logical and it always wants peace. He also appreciated Iraq's peaceful efforts throughout the past 8 years and its acceptance of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 598 since its issuing.

The meeting was attended by the Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Minister of Interior Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, foreign undersecretary and Iraqi charge d'affaires in Bahrain.

Mr. Ramadan had arrived in Bahrain this morning on a tour of a number of Arab countries during which he visited Kuwait.

Delivers Message, Departs

JN0208121888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Aug 888

[Text] Manama, 2 Aug (WAKH)—Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dealing with bilateral relations, the most recent current developments in the Gulf region, and the United Nations efforts toward peace in the region

Iraqi RCC member and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan delivered the message during his reception by the amir of Bahrain this morning.

The State of Bahrain had welcomed Iraq's positive response to these efforts.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Minister of Interior Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, and Iraqi Charges d'Affaires in Bahrain Sami 'Abd Husayn.

Taha Yasin Ramadan left Manama after a short visit to Bahrain. The Bahraini foreign minister, the Iraqi charges d'affaires, and other officials saw him off at the airport.

Kuwait

KUWAIT TIMES Attacks Bush's Middle East Policy

LD0108092788 Kuwait KUNA in English 0805 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 1 (KUNA)—An English language newspaper Monday lashed out at the U.S. Vice President and Republican Party presidential candidate George Bush for giving what it hinted at as ambiguous and vague statements on the Middle East.

"There is very little of the Middle East and nothing at all of policy in this marvel of inanity, banality and triviality," the KUWAIT TIMES said, adding "Candidate Bush says so much that he ends up saying nothing."

The United States policy in the Middle East has always been serving the interests of Israel, causing, among other things, so many arms deals to slip through the fingers of Washington, the newspaper stated, pointing out that people have come to learn that the issues concerning them have ceased to be determined by the United States.

Between now and the time the new president takes over (in the U.S.), much will have happened to translate the changes into concrete political realities, one of which is the transition of the Palestinian issue from where it is today to the table of an international conference, the KUWAIT TIMES said.

Aircraft Safety Agreement Signed With U.S.

LD3007095088 Kuwait KUNA in English 0813 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 30 (KUN)—Kuwaiti Minister of State for Services 'Isa al-Mazidi Saturday said that his country has signed an agreement with the U.S. to safeguard the commercial airliners and passengers in airports and air space of both countries.

In an interview with daily "AL-WATAN" published here, Al-Mazidi said that Kuwait, by signing such an accord, acts in accordance with its membership at the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

Within this context, the Kuwaiti minister said that his country will issue an anti-air terrorism law within the coming few weeks, in a step to deal with air piracy incidents against Kuwaiti planes, the last of which was the hijacking of "Al-Jabariyah" last April, the longest such mishap in history.

He noted that the new law is still under the microscope at the Justice Ministry, and in case approval was granted, the law will be referred to the cabinet to voice its opinion.

Relating to the same issue, Al-Mazidi affirmed that Kuwait has not decided to boycott any Asian airport as a result of the investigations into Al-Jabariyah's skyjacking incident, but said that the authorities are re-considering a number of agreements with a number of Asian airline companies, such as those of Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Philippines.

He warned that Kuwait will not allow a repeat of Al-Jabariyah's tragedy and it will take all necessary measures in case any negligence toward protecting its planes and passengers was detected in any airport around the globe.

Regarding the issue of levying fees on those departing Kuwait, Al-Mazidi said that this project is stil being studied, indicating that the proposed charges will range from 1 to 2 Kuwaiti dinars.

Oman

Agreement on Air Services Signed With Turkey

WA0208113188 Muscat AL-WATAN in Arabic 9 Jun 88 p 4

[By 'Abd al-Sattar Khulayf]

[Text] An agreement organizing air services between the Sultanate and the Republic of Turkey is to be signed this morning. His Excellency Shaykh Hamud ibn 'Abdallah al-Harithi, minister of communications, will sign it on behalf of the Sultanate, while His Excellency Professor Dr Ekrem Pakdemirli, minister of communications and transportation of the Turkish Republic, will represent the Turkish Government. The signing ceremony will take place at the Ministry of Communications.

His excellency the guest and his accompanying delegation arrived in the country yesterday morning on a 3-day official visit during which an agreement on cooperation in transportation and communications will be signed.

His excellency was received at the airport by His Excellency Minister of Communications Shaykh Hamud ibn 'Abdallah al-Harithi, the ministry's acting deputy minister, His Excellency Orhan Kulin, the Turkish ambassador to the Sultanate, and a number of senior ministry officials.

The delegation accompanying his excellency the visiting minister includes: Irfan Saruhan, the minister's personal adviser; Erol Cengiz, deputy director general of civil aviation; and Ekrem Onkanat, commercial director of the Turkish airlines.

The visiting minister's program yesterday included a visit to the Turkish Embassy in Muscat. An official meeting also took place between the visiting minister and His Excellency Ahmad ibn Swidan al-Balushi, minister of posts, telegraphs, and telephones, in the minister's office in Al-Khuwayr to discuss matters of common interest.

His Highness Fahd ibn Muhammad Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister of legal affairs, will receive the visiting minister in his office in Muscat.

The visiting minister and the accompanying delegation will leave the country the following morning and will be seen off by Minister of Communications Shaykh Hamud ibn 'Abdallah al-Harithi, the deputy minister, the Turkish ambassador to the Sultanate, and a number of ministry officials.

Briefs

Ambassador to Mexico

The Mexican president received 'Awad ibn Badr al-Shanfari, Oman's Washington ambassador, who presented his credentials as nonresident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Mexico. [Summary] [*JN3007154988 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jul 88*]

Outgoing Iraqi Ambassador

His Excellency Qays ibn 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, received in his office this morning His Excellency Muhammad Ghanim al-'Annaz, Iraqi ambassador to the

Sultanate, who bid farewell to his excellency at the end of his tenure as his country's ambassador to the Sultanate. [Text] [*JN3108153888 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jul 88*]

Saudi Arabia

Iraq's Ramadan Delivers Message to King Fahd

LD0208172988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1635 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 2 Aug (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a verbal message from his brother, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of the Republic of Iraq.

The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister. Ramadan was received by King Fahd today. [passage omitted]

The member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council is accompanied by the Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Nizar Hamdum.

Further on Meeting With King

JN0208193788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Jeddah, 2 aug (INA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia received in Jeddah today Taha Yasin Ramadan, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, RCC member, and first deputy prime minister.

Taha Yasin Ramadan conveyed the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz as well as the appreciation of the Iraqi leadership and people for the genuine and honorable stands taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and also for its support for Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy briefed His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on Iraq's stand toward the international efforts being exerted to implement all articles of UN Security Council Resolution 598 through direct negotiations, considering they are the proper, sound, and short path to establishing permanent and comprehensive peace.

King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia asked Taha Yasin Ramadan to convey his fraternal greetings to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He also renewed his congratulations on the great victories scored by Iraq through its liberation of its territory. Furthermore, he praised the sacrifices offered and the courage displayed by the Iraqis—things which are a source of pride for all Arabs.

King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has affirmed Saudi Arabia's stand in support of Iraq's just stance regarding the need to bring about a comprehensive and just peace as provided for in the full text of the UN Security Council resolution which must be implemented in accordance with the sequence of its operative paragraphs. King Fahd also voiced Saudi Arabia's appreciation of Iraq's efforts and its sincere and serious peace stands.

The meeting was attended by Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of holy Mecca Province; Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the Iraqi ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy arrived in Jeddah from Bahrain earlier in the day.

Departs After 'Short Visit'

LD0208173388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1655 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Jeddah, 2 Aug (SPA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, left Jeddah this evening after a short visit to the Kingdom during which he delivered a verbal message to the servant of the two holy places, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, from his brother, His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Iraqi Republic.

Ramadan was seen off by King 'Abd al-'Aziz at International Airport by His Royal Highness Amir Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of the Mecca region; His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information; General Salih al-Sudays, commander of the western region; and 'Abd al-Wahab Mahmud al-Sabbagh, Iraq's ambassador to the Kingdom and a representative of royal protocol.

Bahraini Amir Departs After 'Private Visit'

LD0108195888 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, returned to Manama this evening from the Kingdom. His Highness Shaykh 'Isa was on a private visit to the Kingdom during which he inquired about the medical checkup and surgery carried out on his highness his brother, the prime minister of Bahrain, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and which was successful, thank God. [passage omitted]

Briefs

New Maltese Ambassador

Jeddah, 1 Aug (SPA)—At his highness' office in Jeddah today, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, received (Joseph Sasamut), ambassador to the Kingdom from the Republic of Malta. The Maltese ambassador presented his highness a copy of his credentials appointing him his country's new ambassador to

the Kingdom, prior to presenting his credentials to the custodian of the two holy mosques. [Excerpt] [*LD0208013488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1152 GMT 1 Aug 88*]

United Arab Emirates

Iraq's Shakir Arrives to Convey Message

JN0108195088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1854 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Aug (INA)—RCC member Sa'dun Shakir, the personal envoy of President Saddam Husayn, arrived here tonight from Muscat on a visit to the UAE during his current tour of Arabian Gulf countries.

He told an INA correspondent in Abu Dhabi he will convey a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on developments of the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the region.

Upon his arrival, Shakir was received by Foreign Ministry Secretary Hamdan ibn Zayid and the Iraqi ambassador to the UAE.

President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy delivered two similar messages earlier today to Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and Sultan of Oman Qabus ibn Sa'id.

Delivers Message, Leaves

JN0208123288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Aug (WAKH)—Iraqi RCC member Sa'dun Shaykir left Abu Dhabi this afternoon after a short visit to the UAE during which he carried a verbal message to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

He was seen off by UAE Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid.

Defense Minister, Iran's Besharati Hold Talks

JN0208125188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Dubayy, 2 Aug (WAKH)—UAE Minister of Defense Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum met today with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Muhammad 'Ali Besharati who is currently visiting the UAE.

During the meeting, they surveyed the most recent developments in the Gulf region, especially Iran's announcement that it accepts Security Council Resolution 598 which calls to end the war between Iraq and Iran.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum stated to WAM that the cease-fire between the two neighboring Islamic countries will stop the shedding of Muslim blood and direct their energies toward the good and prosperity of their two nations.

Discuss Resolution 598

LD0208164788 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug 2, IRNA—Iran's Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati conferred with Minister of Defense Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum of the United Arab Emirates on the latest developments of the region after Iran accepted the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 (on July 18).

During the meeting held in Dubayy Tuesday, Besharati lauded recent stands of some regional countries especially the U.A.E. and placed emphasis on the need for establishment of a stable peace in the region.

In response, the U.A.E. minister thanked Iran's timely and brave decision in accepting the resolution and stressed expansion of his country's relations with the Islamic Republic which he said is a powerful country in the region.

Ibn Rashid expressed hope that Iran's measure in accepting the resolution would cause withdrawal of foreign forces from the region and establish peace and security.

Besharati arrived here Monday night from Muscat.

AL-BAYAN on U.S. 'Bias' Toward Israel

JN3007202288 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 29 Jul 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Peace, U.S. Bias, International Conference"]

[Text] The new-old U.S. stand refusing to talk with the PLO before it issues an official statement in which it declares its recognition of Israel's right to exist poses more than one question on the usefulness and direction of U.S. "peace" efforts in a dispute in which it chose, through its stand and practices, to be a party and not a mediator.

All the U.S. stands: the arming of Israel; the insistence on Israel's qualitative military superiority over all the Arab countries; the strategic alliance agreement with it; the support of its aggressive and expansionist nature; interference to save Israel whenever it lands in trouble; the attempt to stop other nations from arming the Arab countries; and lastly, the efforts of Congress to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, are all issues which confirm that the United States is harboring Israeli interests and ambitions from a strategic perspective which divides the roles between the two sides.

We do not want to delve into the details of Israeli stands which refuse to recognize any Palestinian right, its no's which say no to the PLO, no to the recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination, and no to the Palestinian state. We wonder why the United States does not cancel the Israeli no's before demanding Palestinian concessions, especially since Israel is the force of usurpation and occupation and the Palestinians are the victims of violence and homelessness, demanding the simplest of human rights, which were agreed on by all international charters and norms.

Perhaps the United States knows better than anyone else that the Palestinians in all their parties and wherever they may be—inside the occupied territories or in the diaspora—chose the PLO as the leader of their struggle and representative and that the Arabs confirmed at the highest levels through their summits that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that the PLO itself expressed approval of the Arab peace initiative in its honest path toward a peace that is based on justice, admits the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and establishes their independent state.

In conclusion, if the United States is honest in its efforts to establish peace in the Middle East, then it has to accept justice and fairness and seek to implement human rights' charters and United Nations resolutions accepted by the international community.

Above all, the United States has to maintain a neutral stand and not be a party to the conflict and a judge at the same time. Perhaps the suggestion an international peace conference with powers under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all concerned parties and the five permanent members of the Security Council provides the best formula for peace.

Yemen Arab Republic

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives in Sanaa, Makes Statement

JN0208204788 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and Iraqi first deputy prime minister arrived in Sanaa tonight on a visit to our country. He was received at Sanaa International Airport by Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; a number of brother ministers; Brother 'Abd Husayn al-Rifa'i, the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa; and embassy members.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Brother Ramadan said he will convey a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother President Saddam Husayn on the latest developments of the Iraq-Iran war and Iraq's commitment to principles of peace and its rejection of any attempt to deflect these principles.

He said his visit comes in light of the distinguished relations between our country and Iraq and the coordination between both countries in all stands and issues of concern to the Arab nation.

He said the YAR is on the front line and must be informed of what is going on in the Security Council and Iraq's stands in the face of these maneuvers. These stands seek firm and lasting peace away from any games or temporary halt to the war.

Meets With President Salih

JN0308053888 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member, first deputy prime minister, and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's envoy, last night.

Ramadan conveyed to President Salih a message from his brother Saddam Husayn. The message deals with recent developments in the region and the Iraq-Iran war and the international peace efforts to end this devastating war through the comprehenisve implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and all its clauses in a manner that would guarantee a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. The message also includes several issues of interest to fraternal relations between the two countries.

President Salih expressed our country's support for all sincere efforts to stop this war which only benefits the enemies of the two neighbouring countries and the Islamic nation. He also reiterated our country's firm and principled stand toward fraternal Iraq's defense of its sovereignty and independence, and its peace efforts to end the war and to achieve a just and lasting peace.

Attending the meeting were Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; and 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Rifa'i, Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Sanaa earlier last night on a visit to our country.

President Decides To Reform Advisory Council
JN3007182488 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 88

["Text" of Decision No 9 for 1988 signed by Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress on 30 July]

[Text] Referring to the Permanent Constitution and the president of the Republic's Decision No 13 for 1979 forming an advisory council in accordance with the public interest, the president decides:

1. The Advisory Council shall be re-formed, composed of the following brothers:
'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi
'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani
Dr Hasan Muhammad Makki
Dr 'Abd al-Karim 'Ali al-Iryani
Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar
Mujahid Yahya abu Shawarib
'Abdallah ibn Husayn al-Ahmar
Husayn Muhammad al-Daf'i
Husayn 'Abdallah al-Maqdami
Muhammad Isma'il al-Hajji
'Ali Qasim al-Mu'ayyad
Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Iryani
Yahya Muhammad al-Mutawakkil
Muhammad Salim Basandiwah
Sinan 'Abdallah abu Luhum
Muhammad Ahmad al-Junayd
Muhammad Ahmad Mansur
Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Salih al-Maqalih
Ahmad Ahmad al-Ruhaymi
Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Asbahi
Yahya Lutfi al-Qusayyim
Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab Jubari
Naji 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sha'if
'Abdallah Husayn al-Halali
Ahmad Jabir 'Afif

The decision comes into force from the date of its publication and is to be carried in the official gazette.

2. It was issued at the presidential office on 30 July 1988.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Official Stesses Need for 'Face-to-Face' Talks

JN0208191788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] New York, 2 Aug (INA)—The official spokesman for the Iraqi delegation in New York issued a statement today stressing that it is important to note that supporting the Iranian demand will not lead to an early agreement on an integrated plan for the implementation of Resolution 598 because peace should be mapped out between Iraq and Iran and not between Iran and the United Nations.

In the statement that was distributed at the UN headquarters, the spokesman said that if there is any party which harbors illusions that Iraq will accept the fait accompli on this matter, then it must realize that it is committing a grave mistake and greatly harming the cause of peace.

He added: We want a genuine peace that leads to a speedy comprehensive, honorable, and lasting settlement and not just a truce or a state of no war and no peace which clearly is Iran's objective. This objective is unacceptable to Iraq and to the countries in the region.

The spokesman for the Iraqi delegation said: Since the arrival of the Iraqi delegation to New York at the UN secretary general's invitation, we have proposed a reasonable, practical, and less time-consuming formula for the negotiations to implement Resolution 598.

We have proposed face-to-face talks under the UN secretary general's auspices. We submitted this proposal sincerely and for serious reasons.

It has become clear in the Iranian statements that were issued either in New York or in Tehran that the Iranians seek only a cease-fire which they desperately need after their recent defeats. If we judge them by their statements, we find that they have not committed themselves to a comprehensive and lasting peace.

They even avoided using the word "peace" and instead spoke of a cease-fire. By their action, they have increased our suspicions and we have not yet ascertained their real intentions or the soundness of their stand.

Remember that the Iranians have resorted to their skills and contacts over the 8 years of the war to justify their policy based on the prolongation of the war and the invasion.

They now resort to these skills and contacts to avoid a genuine peace and to obtain only a truce—a truce that will enable them to catch their breath so that they may resume this policy.

The Iraqi spokesman added: Iraq will not give the Iranians such an opportunity. Since we are the party that is more concerned about genuine peace, we have the right to call for the best formula for negotiations during which the real intentions of the Iranians will be examined. It would be very far from the truth to describe Iraq's stand as a precondition.

He said: We call for face-to-face talks to test the Iranians' intentions concerning the establishment of a genuine peace instead of a temporary truce. Iraq's and Iran's interests lie in establishing a comprehensive, honorable, lasting, and genuine peace.

In our stand, we do not ask for an advantage for Iraq alone. Consequently, talking about a precondition is in fact a mistake.

The spokesman for the Iraqi delegation concluded his statement by saying: We should recall that for an entire week Iran has been calling for and saying that the UN secretary general and the Security Council should announce a day for a cease-fire before reaching a full agreement on the fair implementation of Resolution No 598. Any support for the Iranian stand which concurs with the Iranian objective on the truce would be unsound.

Saddam Husayn Receives Seven-Member Committee

JN0208164688 Baghdad INA in English 1625 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 2, INA—President Saddam Husayn received the Arab League's seven-member committee on following-up the developments of the Iraq-Iran war.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Arab League's Secretary General Chedli Klibi and members of the committee congratulated President Husayn on Iraq's recent victories and the liberation of Iraqi national soil from the Iranian invaders and hailed the Iraqi heroic steadfastness in defending the security and sovereignty of Iraq and the Arab nation.

They also praised Iraq's stands and response towards the ongoing efforts to achieve a just and honourable solution to the war.

President Husayn reaffirmed to the committee members that Iraq's victory was a victory for all Arabs for the pride of the Arab nation. He also praised the committee's efforts in bringing about peace between Iraq and Iran and its efforts to lay the basis for stablity and security in the region.

The committee set up in March 1984 comprises foreign ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Tunis, Jordan, and Arab Yemen's foreign undersecretary.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Mr. Latif Nusayyi Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister; and the president's secretary.

Ramadan 'Insists' on Clearance of Shatt al-'Arab

NC0308130788 Paris AFP in English 1253 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, Aug 3 (AFP)—Iraq insists on the clearance of the strategic Shatt al-'Arab waterway, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan said in a report published here Wednesday.

"The Shatt al-'Arab has been mined and is useless due to shipwrecks," he told the Egyptian weekly AKHIR SA'AH, noting that the waterway, which lies at the centre of the Iran-Iraq war, is Iraq's sole outlet to the Gulf.

Iran by contrast can use the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz for its maritime traffic immediately after a cease-fire, Mr. Ramadan noted, warning that "this is a situation we will not tolerate."

Mr. Ramadan arrived in Amman on Wednesday for a brief visit during which he was to meet King Husayn and senior officials for talks on the Gulf war, officials there said.

The Iraqi official, a personal envoy of President Saddam Husayn, is on a tour that has already taken him to North Yemen, Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

The latest Iraqi statement added another possible complication to U.N.-sponsored negotiations in New York aimed at implementing a cease-fire in the almost eight-year-old Gulf war, analysts said. [passage omitted]

Polish Transport, Communications Minister Visits

JN2907175888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1716 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—Janusz Kaminski, Polish minister of transport and communications, arrived in Baghdad today heading a delegation on a visit to last several days. During the visit, the Polish minister will hold talks with Iraqi officials to develop and reinforce cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Meets With Counterpart

JN3007112288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah today met with the visiting Polish Transport and Communications Minister Janusz Kaminski. They discussed ways to develop cooperation in the fields of transportation and communications services and the exchange of information and technical services between the two ministries.

The Polish minister praised the progress and development in Iraq in all fields. He expressed hope that more cooperation will be achieved between Iraq and Poland in the fields of transportation and communications.

The Polish minister arrived here yesterday on an official visit.

SFRY's Zemljaric Arrives for Cooperation Talks

JN3007072988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, arrived here last night on a visit to last several days. In a statement to INA, the SFRY official said the visit aims at reinforcing and developing economic, political, and technical cooperation between Iraq and the SFRY.

Confers With Trade Minister

JN3007100888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met with Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, and his accompanying delegation this morning. They reviewed the results of implementing the resolutions and recommendations of the 12th session of the joint Iraqi-Yugoslav committee held in Belgrade in July last year. They also reviewed the ways to increase the size of trade exchange as well as the issues to be discussed during the meetings of the 13th session of the joint committee to be held at the end of August.

Discusses War With Ramadan

JN3007175988 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 30, INA—Member of the Revolution Command Council and Iraq's First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan met here today with visiting Yugoslav Deputy Premier Janez Zemljaric who heads the Yugoslav side to the Iraqi-Yugoslav Joint Committee.

During the meeting which was attended by Iraqi Minister of Trade Muhammad Mahdi Salih, the two sides expressed willingness to further promote bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

Referring to the developments of the Iraq-Iran war, Mr. Ramadan reiterated Iraq's firm and principled stand that peace should be comprehensive in accordance with the five principles set by Iraq.

Mr. Zemljaric conveyed his congratulations for Iraq's victories and the appreciation of his country for Iraq's peaceful efforts over the past eight years, expressing hope in reaching a just and comprehensive peace.

Talks With Oil Minister

JN3107141488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 104 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim met here today with Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council and head of the SFRY side to the Iraqi-Yugoslav joint committee for economic and technical cooperation, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they reviewed cooperation in the oil area between Iraq and the SFRY and ways to promote it as well as the activity of the SFRY companies implementing development plans in Iraq. The meeting was attended by the SFRY ambassador in Baghdad. The SFRY official arrived here on Saturday evening.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN3108165488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—Janez Zemljaric, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, and his delegation left Baghdad for home this afternoon after a 3-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Zemljaric said that during the visit, he held talks with Iraqi officials on promoting cooperation in the economic, scientific, and technical areas.

Maldivian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

JN2907203688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2017 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 JUl (INA)—Maldivian Foreign Affairs Minister Fathulla Jameel arrived in Baghdad tonight on a several-day visit to Iraq.

Fathulla Jameel told INA he will hold talks during the visit to improve and bolster cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural fields between Iraq and the Maldives.

Meets Information Minister

JN3007104988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister and acting foreign minister, met here today with Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel and his accompanying delegation.

Jasim affirmed Iraq's firm stand calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war in a comprehensive and complete way through the implementation of UN Resolution No 598 and in accordance with the sequence of its paragraphs and through holding direct negotiations to reach an agreement for a comprehensive and lasting peace.

Jasim said that as Iraq calls for peace it is also capable of deterring any aggression launched by the Iranian regime against Iraqi territory and the heroic Iraqi forces.

The Maldivian foreign minister praised the heroism and steadfastness of the Iraqi people in the face of the Iranian onslaughts. He also praised the Iraqi people's high morale and their strong determination to repulse the aggression and build comprehensive development, thanks to the wise Iraqi leadership.

The minister also highly praised Iraq' stand and its honest call to end the war so that a comprehensive peace will prevail in the region.

The two ministers discussed ways to develop and reinforce the political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Delivers Message to President

JN3007175388 Baghdad INA in English 1730 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 30, INA—President Saddam Husayn received a written message from President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

The messages was delivered to H.E. [His Excellency] by Maldives Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel at a meeting attended by Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister and the president's secretary.

Departs 31 Jul

JN3107123688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1028 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel left Baghdad at noon today concluding a visit to Iraq during which he delivered a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

During the visit, the Maldivian official held talks with a number of officials dealing with means to bolster bilateral cooperation in the media, cultural, economic, and political fields. The Maldivian minister described his visit to Iraq as successful.

Minister Fathulla Jameel arrived here on 29 July.

National Assembly Elections Postponed 6 Months

JN0108110588 Baghdad INA in English 1046 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 1, INA—The Revolution Command Council has decided to postpone elections of the National Assembly due late this month for a period of six months.

An RCC resolution issued here today said the postponement was due to the pre-occupation of the people, leadership and state institutions with circumstances of current battles and consequent results of victory, a matter that did not provide favourable opportunities to perform their role as they should at the present time.

The resolution stressed that elections of people's representatives at the National Council requires providing all prerequisites of success to attend its objectives in sound atmospheres.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,282

JN0208162988 Baghdd Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Communique No 3,282 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The combat activities carried out by our troops last night and today were as follows:

1. Our daring helicopter gunships today carried out 54 combat sorties. They inflicted further losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment on our country's enemies. Then they returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. Eight enemy personnel were killed, others were wounded, and one vehicle was destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector. Also one rocket tubular launcher was set ablaze and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

3. Five infantry positions were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

4. Our naval observation posts yesterday spotted two enemy naval targets while they were attempting to approach Al-'Amiq port. One of our naval units engaged them and forced therm to flee toward the Iranian coast.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 August 1988

Shelling of Areas Denied

JN0208185788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—In a statement to INA tonight, the Iraqi military spokesman denied what was announced by Tehran radio this evening regarding the shelling [qasf] of residential areas in northwestern Iran.

Statement on War Responsibility Said 'Fabricated'

PM0108154788 [Editorial Report]

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic in its 28 July 1988 edition carries on pages 1 and 2 an unattributed news analysis reviewing Iraqi and Iranian positions on the Gulf war which cites an "accredited Iraqi diplomat in Paris" as saying that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had at some stage stated that "if we were responsible for starting the war, our responsibility does not go beyond the first 2 weeks, at the end of which we declared a unilateral cease-fire and willingness to negotiate. We are prepared to pay for the damage we inflicted on Iran in that brief period. Iran, however, is solely responsible for the damage it suffered since then, just as it is responsible for the damage it inflicted on our border villages and towns, because of its insistence on continuing the war despite UN resolutions and against the will of the international community."

The 29 July edition of the same paper carries on page 2 the following denial it received from the press attache of the Iraqi Embassy in Paris:

"In your 28 July 1988 edition in the course of a news analysis under the headline 'The Iraq-Iran Hot War Is Coming to an End,' you quote an accredited diplomat at the Iraqi Embassy in Paris as citing a fabricated statement by President Saddam Husayn. Expressing astonishment at the publication of such inaccurate reports at this particular time, the press section of the Iraqi Embassy in Paris wishes to state and emphasize that no accredited Iraqi diplomat in Paris has made any such statement at all and that the said statement is completely false."

Paper Cited on Iran's Rejection of Direct Talks

JN0108110088 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 1, INA—By refusing direct negotiations, the Iranian regime aimed at concealing its wicked intentions toward the process of peace, an Iraqi paper said.

AL-JUMHURIYAH paper, in an editorial published here today, mentioned that the Iranian regime did not want a lasting and comprehensive peace under which peoples of the region "co-exist in an atmosphere of security, stability and mutual confidence."

By announcing its approval of Resolution 598, the Iranian regime wanted to realize a temporary truce during which it could catch its breath and gather its remnants to resume its aggressive course, AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed.

The Iranian regime was putting spikes in the wheel of peace, the paper said, adding that by refusing direct negotiations and by using this refusal as a pretext to maneuver and gain time the Iranian regime demonstrated its intentions to obstruct the peace process.

All pieces of evidence indicated that the Iranian regime did not want to establish lasting and comprehensive peace, for the Iranian regime "harbours greedy intentions in Iraq and the Arab Gulf and Iran is holding on by force to portions of the Arab land" the paper mentioned.

Iran refused Resolution 598 for one year and was forced to accept it after the all-out military defeat it suffered at the hand of Iraqis and as domestic conflicts and economic crises compounded and the regime international isolation intensified, AL-JUMHURIYAH noted.

Pleas made to the Iranians to volunteer, closure of universities, dispatch of students and civil servants to warfronts, allegations that there would be an Iraqi invasion of Iran, Iranian officials statements that they were compelled to accept the resolution and the fact that some of the elements in power in Tehran were still opposing the resolution "are pieces of evidence substatiating the fact that Iran does not want to establish peace," AL-JUMHURIYAH remarked.

Iran's rejection of direct negotiations "practically means that Iran refuses Resolution No. 598 and that it has announced its acceptance of the resolution to pretend a charge of policy," AL-JUMHURIYAH remarked.

The paper drew attention of the international community to the fact that Iran "is still acting according to a law enacted early last July, a law stipulating for continuing the war against Iraq and considering this as the strategy of Iran's internal and external policies."

The daily called upon all parties concerned with peace and eager to realize an enduring and comprehensive peace to place pressure on the Iranian regime and urge it to initiate direct negotiations to prove, at least, its good faith.

"Iraq categorically refuses the Iranian game and accepts nothing but direct negotiations, under auspices of the U.N. secretary-general to arrive at an integral, comprehensive agreement on implications of Resolution 598, including the para on effecting ceasefire," AL-JUMHURIYAH mentioned.

The paper added that secretariat-general of the U.N. and the Security Council "are called upon, before anyone else, to refuse and condemn the Iranian game as it aims at sabotaging peace process and frustrating all efforts made in this regard."

Jordan's Husayn Rejects West Bank Visitors

TA0308082088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Aug 88 pp 1, 6

[Report by Ori Nir, 'Aqiva Eldar, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] West Bank residents have received messages from Jordan informing them that the king will not receive delegations of West Bank residents wishing to express their loyalty and request that he rescind his decision to dissociate himself from the West Bank.

Similar delegations used to go to Amman after every political development in either Jordan or the West Bank in order to convey their loyalty to the king. This time, however, King Husayn is discontinuing the practice, apparently as an expression of his determination to dissociate himself from the West Bank.

Since the king's speech, Jordanian television has dropped the weather forecasts for West Bank and Gaza Strip cities from its newscasts. The residents view this change as another indication of Husayn's determination. Jordanian television began broadcasting weather forecasts to residents of the territories 2 years ago, when the king announced that he was discontinuing the political coordination with the PLO and after Jordan launched an initiative toward rapprochement with the residents of the territories. [passage omitted]

Inner Cabinet Meets, Debates Husayn Moves

Moda'i Speaks

TA0308105888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] In today's Inner Cabinet meeting, Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i proposed that the Jordanian civil law practiced in the territories and the military administration be abolished in the wake of Husayn's declaration of dissociation.

Moda'i said we need not wait and see how Husayn's declarations will materialize, but had better initiate Israeli moves. According to Moda'i, Husayn's speech marks an enormous change because in its aftermath, Israel no longer constitutes an occupation force in Judaea and Samaria.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the Inner Cabinet members heard the views of experts today in the wake of the Jordanian king's moves. Ministers Moda'i and Sharon spoke during the ensuing debate. The debate will resume in one of the upcoming Inner Cabinet sessions.

Sharon Makes Proposal

TA0308113088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Minister Ari'el Sharon proposes to impose Israeli law on Jewish settlement areas in Judaea and Samaria, on sparsely populated areas, and on the territory outlined in the Allon plan, which is not to be handed back to Jordan according to general consensus.

Our political affairs correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami has learned that Minister Sharon made this proposal in this morning's Cabinet meeting which debated the Husayn declaration. According to Minister Sharon, his proposal can win a broad national consensus, in view of the new situation created by Husayn. [passage omitted]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

'Terrorist Cells' Uncovered

TA0308052788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Security forces have uncovered a terrorist cell from Bayt Immar, near Hebron. The group is allegedly responsible for six incidents involving the throwing of Molotov cocktails, including one in Gaza in June in which two IDF officers were injured.

Terrorist cells were also uncovered at Dayr 'Ammar, 'Ayn Jamlai., and the Al-Jalazun refugee camp near Ramallah. These groups also are suspected of throwing Molotov cocktails at army vehicles and Israeli buses. With more details, reporter Steve Rodan:

The army continues to report progress in its battle against Palestinians throwing firebombs. This morning security forces say they have uncovered a terrorist cell in the Bayt Immar village in the Hebron area. Its members are suspected of six incidents of hurling firebombs, including throwing a firebomb at an army jeep on 14 June.

Two army officers were injured in the incident. The terror gang is also alleged to have thrown firebombs at other jeeps and buses. There were no injuries reported.

In addition, other terrorist cells were discovered and captured in the villages of Dayr 'Ammar, 'Ayn Jamlah, and the Al-Jalazun refugee camp in the Ramallah region. The members of these gangs are suspected of hurling firebombs at Egged buses and army vehicles. They are also suspected of throwing firebombs at people they considered to be collaborators.

This morning the army destroyed the homes of 10 members of these terror gangs, and the security forces sealed the homes of 2 other members.

Vehicles Stoned

TA0308053088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Several Israeli vehicles were damaged yesterday in incidents near Tel Aviv and in Samaria. At the Country Club intersection near Tel Aviv, an object was thrown at a private car. The windshield was shattered and the driver was lightly injured in the face. The background to the attack is not clear.

In the area of Qalqilyah and 'Azzun, several vehicles were damaged by stones. A curfew was in effect in these areas, but residents succeeded in placing a lot of nails on the road.

Near the settlement of Ari'el, the windshield of a private bus was shattered in a stone-throwing incident.

HADASHOT Closed Down by Censor for 1 Week

TA0208182688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Brigadier General Yitzhaq Shani, the IDF chief press and media censor, tonight issued an order instructing the closure of the HADASHOT printing shop for 1 week.

The order was prompted by two reports on the chief of staff's new appointments plan which HADASHOT published in the 2 August issue without submitting them to preliminary censorship and without the censor's approval. The censor regarded this as a grave action, since it was done knowingly and despite the fact that several days ago the paper had been warned in connection with other censorship infringements.

The HADASHOT reaction was conveyed to us a short while ago by one of its editors, Rino Tzeror: The censor's announcement regarding the closure of HADASHOT has reinforced the increasingly prevalent belief that the censor uses emergency regulations as a political, rather than security tool.

Today HADASHOT published a report on the resignation of a senior IDF officer. This resignation was preceded by the resignation of another senior IDF officer which was reported by all the newspapers last Friday. HADASHOT was the only paper whose report on the resignation was not approved by the censor. The paper protested the decision.

Censor Rescinds Order

TA0208191788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] The IDF chief censor has rescinded his order to close HADASHOT's printing shop. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the censor decided to allow the publication of the paper after its managers apologized and asked him to retract his decision.

The censor had earlier ordered the paper closed for 1 week because it published reports on a new round of appointments in the IDF without having submitted them to censorship.

Shamir Interviewed on Election, Political Issues

TA2907123388 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jul 88 p B2

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by 'Aqiva Eldar and Ilan Shehori in the prime minister's office on 27 July: "One Day We Will Have To Negotiate With Jordan"]

[Text] [HA'ARETZ] Separating Knesset elections from elections to the municipal councils was the last in the Likud's parliamentary defeats last week. Will it affect the election campaign?

[Shamir] It will have no effect on the Knesset elections. I regret the decision because it will have a negative economic impact on the municipal elections. The main reason the Likud wanted to hold these two election campaigns simultaneously was because it wanted to see as many citizens participate in the local elections as in the general election.

Everyone knows that there is a high turnout for general elections. The Labor Party expressly wished to obtain a low voting rate, thereby hoping to make electoral profits. This is antidemocratic.

[HA'ARETZ] Can the confrontation we witnessed this week between the Likud and the Alignment—including your and Shim'on Peres' appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and the language used there—be seen as an indication that the future holds a stormy season?

[Shamir] I regret what happened in the Knesset. These were parliamentary debates. I am sorry that they were conducted so heatedly and that they included such style and sharp expressions, attacks, and vilifications. Both before and during the election campaign, we need to show restraint and self-control in our verbal expressions, strategy, and the debates.

It may very well be that after the election we will have to have some form of national unity. I am not saying now whether by this I mean necessarily a national unity government. Sometimes you need ad hoc national unity. In order to be able to think logically and work together, however, we should reduce the bitter confrontations to a minimum. This has a great influence on the Israeli public and encourages our enemies.

[HA'ARETZ] Yet members of both parties have hinted that the election campaign may be "hotter" than in 1981. Will you restrain your fellow Likud members and call on the public to behave similarly?

[Shamir] The confrontation should be substantive, as each of us wants to persuade the electorate. I object to extremist phenomena or performances. A lot depends on the central figures who lead the election campaign, and these things are not necessary. There is no point in calling names. Why should someone call another a fascist?

[HA'ARETZ] In internal debates, you said that if a unity government is formed after the election, you would like to reach a "memorandum of understanding" with your partners. What would you like to include in that document?

[Shamir] There is no point discussing the content of future agreements which will be reached after the election. They will depend largely on the outcome of the returns and the situation that will be created. According to the experience gained during the incumbent unity government's term, it will be necessary to seek ways to prevent those significant malfunctions that emerged over the past 4 years both in the government's operations and in relations among its various components. I cannot and should not go into detail at this point.

[HA'ARETZ] Nearly 2 weeks ago, Peres announced that he can foresee no way of agreeing on joint guidelines with the Likud after the elections, mainly because you are waving the banner of Judaea and Samaria and are not prepared to make any concessions.

[Shamir] The differences of opinion that prevail now between the Likud and the Alignment existed even before the establishment of the current government. As far as this is concerned, nothing has changed. After the election, I would pursue the same principles and guidelines we agreed on in 1984.

[HA'ARETZ] Without an international conference?

[Shamir] Definitely. The 1984 agreement never mentioned such a conference. The divergent leap toward an international conference is an invention no one ever thought about when the basic guidelines were first signed. As for the immediate future, if there is need for changes, they, too, should be agreed upon. This is the proper code when there is an agreement.

[HA'ARETZ] The Likud plans to launch its election campaign officially in mid-August. What will be the main issues on which you will focus?

[Shamir] We will not come out with revolutionary notions. Everyone knows what we are talking about: security, peace, and the most effective means of achieving both. We will also deal with ways to strengthen the Israeli economy, as well as with social issues.

[HA'ARETZ] Will you exploit the crisis in the Histradrut and its holding company as well?

[Shamir] We are not rejoicing over the Histradrut's difficulties. We do, however, take a very grave view of the collapse of important and very essential economic sectors. We will talk about the reasons for those failures.

[HA'ARETZ] What is your opinion about relations between the Likud and the religious parties? After all, the latter blatantly opposed you and lent their hand to the separation of the two elections?

[Shamir] The coalition with the religious parties is subject to vicissitudes. It is not a Catholic marriage. The religious parties contend that the separation of the Knesset election from the municipal elections is distinctly in their interest.

I am not sure that this is indeed the case, but neither can I get too angry with them. There are a lot of reasons why the cooperation between the Likud and the religious parties makes more sense than an alliance between them and the Alignment. A coalition with us is far more likely and probable, although this does not mean that there cannot be differences of opinion.

[HA'ARETZ] You instructed Knesset Member Eli Kulas, the chairman of the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee, not to push for legislation to amend the election system. Was this not an attempt to avoid further exacerbation of relations with the religious parties? Did you not do that so as not to close the doors on the option of continuing your coalition with the religious parties after the elections?

[Shamir] I issued no such instruction. It is not a matter of getting closer or farther. We honor our agreements with the religious parties. I believe that such an agreement should be observed. We promised them that with regard to a change in the election system, we will consult with them and reach an agreement. The proposed amendment to the election system entails something very fundamental.

No serious, in-depth discussion of the matter has ever been held in the Likud itself. It has therefore never reached a consolidated position on the matter. This is a purely political issue. Besides, any overt support for an amendment would have constituted a violation of our agreement with the religious parties. I therefore saw no special reason why we should insist on an alteration in the system. Also, this can be done during the next Knesset term.

[HA'ARETZ] In view of the past 2 years, how would you describe today the fabric of relations between yourself and Shim'on Peres?

[Shamir] I dislike the exaggerated personalization of the political system. From my point of view, there is no problem in my relationship with Shim'on Peres. Mr Peres is the primary representative of the Labor Party. This is how I view him and that, I believe, is also the way

he regards me. I do not believe that personal relations, whether good or bad, should determine or in any way affect a relationship between political camps.

[HA'ARETZ] Recently the Likud has felt certain ideological shake-ups. While Arye Na'or and Moshe 'Amirav have turned to the left, [Deputy Defense Minister Mikha'el] Deqel has been talking about transfer [of Arabs across the border]. Additionally, although you stated that the intifada [uprising] was waning, this does not seem to be the case.

[Shamir] There is no confusion in the Likud; there is absolute unanimity and total rejection of all those issues over which the Alignment is divided .

There is no argument in the Likud over central national issues. Thus, there are no differences of opinion over the intifada or contacts with the PLO or a Palestinian state. No one in the Likud thinks that we should withdraw to the 1967 borders or that we should engage in negotiations with the PLO. In this sense there are no cracks in the Likud's wall.

The people you mentioned left the camp and no longer constitute a factor in the Likud. All those who are active in the Likud at the moment and speak in its name usually do so in unison. It was explicitly stated that the idea of transfer does not reflect the Likud's position and is therefore not binding.

As for the intifada, there is no doubt in my mind that it will end. I would not like to specify whether it is declining or waning [yoredet o do'ekhet]; various statistics have shown beyond a doubt that there has been a drop in the level of violence. I have no doubt that we will overcome it, because we must.

[HA'ARETZ] How do you envision the composition of the next government if the Likud wins the elections? Will it be set up according to parameters that will reflect the factional make-up of Herut?

[Shamir] No. Herut is a unified movement. As you all know, I view the existence of camps as a negative phenomenon. Indeed, it is on the decline. Incidentally, soon people will no longer call it "the Herut Movement," but "the Likud."

This is because the union between Herut and the Liberals will be absolute and complete. This is one reason why the camps will continue to lose even more weight and importance. After the recent internal elections held to assign slots to the candidates for our Knesset list, many members of the party understood that factionalism is unnecessary, a weakening element.

[HA'ARETZ] You reportedly said that if the Likud wins the election you will retire from the premiership 2 years later, handing over control to your successor. People say you would prefer to see representatives of the generation whose leaders are Qatzav, Milo, Olmert, Meridor, and Netanyahu succeeding you, rather than Arens, Levi, or Sharon.

[Shamir] I never said I intended to retire after 2 years. As for my successors, there is no need to have a confrontation. I am very pleased that a large, promising layer of young capable leaders is evolving. There is a large group of veteran and young guard members in the Herut Movement and the Likud at the moment. This is a wonderful combination. I do not judge a person by his age, but I do enjoy the invigorating sight of young people making progress.

[HA'ARETZ] You are committed to the Camp David Accords. You declared that in a letter to George Shultz, too. On the other hand, you may form a narrow coalition with the Tehiya. Ge'ula Kohen left the Herut Movement against the backdrop of her opposition to the Camp David agreements. How do you reconcile the two?

[Shamir] This is not the proper framework for me to conduct negotiations with the Tehiya Movement. However, as everyone knows, we feel committed to the Camp David Accords. This is our political plan.

[HA'ARETZ] Is some sort of coalition between the Likud and Kahane possible?

[Shamir] I do not think Kahane could be partner to any government that we would head.

[HA'ARETZ] Should Kakh be outlawed?

[Shamir] That is another matter altogether.

[HA'ARETZ] In 3 months, the national unity government's term will have ended. Shim'on Peres claims that during his tenure two major achievements were scored: withdrawal from Lebanon and economic rehabilitation, while during your term regression has been noticed in various spheres. Of what achievements can you boast?

[Shamir] The time has not yet come for the main confrontation between myself and Peres. It will, however, be held very near the election. I can tell you that in many areas we have made great progress recently, in spite of events that occurred during that time. I will emphasize this during our election campaign. I view our relations with the United States, which have reached certain peaks in the shape of the close cooperation on vital and important matters, as a major achievement.

I can only tell you that the very existence of the national unity government is an achievement in itself and that I claim the main credit for it. Whatever the national unity government achieved—including those things which Mr Peres sees as his personal achievement—were done thanks to the national unity government, and I regard myself as the chief "culprit" in creating and sustaining it.

I can remember the confrontation with Peres prior to the last elections. I said then that we must aspire to set up a national unity government. He said: Never. This changed several weeks later.

[HA'ARETZ] You have been accused of failing to show leadership qualities or sufficient determination. You charged Minister Shahal with telling a "base lie," and yet you never fired him from the cabinet. Why?

[Shamir] Does it say in any code book that those who lie must immediately be dismissed? I have my own ways.

[HA'ARETZ] Let us move over to political issues. Do you regret your support for arbitration over Tabah? Are you sorry about the decision to withdraw from Lebanon, about the economic plan, and the cancellation of the Lavi project?

[Shamir] As for Tabah, I have a lot more to say, but I am not interested in a continued argument today, as long as the arbitration process has not ended. We will talk of this later, if necessary. I supported the economic plan right from the beginning and have continued to support the Likud finance ministers who implemented it. As for Lebanon, this problem no longer exists. We did not oppose the withdrawal from Lebanon at the time; we just had different thoughts on the form and size of withdrawal.

[HA'ARETZ] It is said that after the elections you will show certain flexibility on political issues and try to bring about some solution your own way. Is that indeed so?

[Shamir] I am demonstrating flexibility today too. I think that the main goal of our foreign policy is that of achieving peace with our neighbors. Everything must be done for this peace. Naturally, one cannot speak or think of peace at all costs, since such peace will not actually be peace. I believe that in order for us to progress toward this goal, we have to reach direct negotiations with Arab elements. The international conference option foils any possibility of advancing in this direction.

Since all elements in the Arab world today prefer the international conference to any direct negotiations, it is easier for them to support such a conference. This does not commit them to anything either, not even to recognizing Israel. When the Likud wins the elections it will be clear to all that such a conference is no longer possible. Only then will the elements who wish for true peace understand that direct negotiations with Israel should be entered.

[HA'ARETZ] In view of the intifada, how do you view the possibility of implementing the Camp David Accords in the territories? If Israel implements the autonomy agreement together with the Palestinians and Jordan, who will enter the territory and who will play the various roles there? The Intelligence chief said that the PLO is the main ruler in the area. Are you not afraid that we are in fact late, and that the PLO will be in full control?

[Shamir] I do not want to enter negotiations through the paper over autonomy, the Shultz initiative, and interim arrangements which are a very important component in this initiative. There is no doubt that the situation in the territories will change. The way to negotiations through interim stages of autonomy is still on the agenda. One should sometimes undertake risks for peace.

[HA'ARETZ] Is there a chance for any political progress before the elections?

[Shamir] I hold talks with various elements, but everybody in the international arena understands today that no serious move could be expected from the Israeli Government or one of its components before the elections.

[HA'ARETZ] If you compose the next government too, what will be your first political move?

[Shamir] I will view myself freer to do different things in the international arena that is distant from Israel as well as in the one near it. I will work to reach direct negotiations with Arab elements.

[HA'ARETZ] What about the intifada?

[Shamir] It is not necessary to specify to the radical Arabs what moves Israel intends to adopt against them. The intifada leaders also read newspapers, and I would not like to give them any ideas.

[HA'ARETZ] Do you not share remarks by Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, to the effect that this problem could be solved within a week?

[Shamir] I refrain from saying so. My opinion, that the security forces are adopting measures which are acceptable to the government, is known.

[HA'ARETZ] The situation in the Gaza Strip is getting increasingly worse. How do you view our continued rule there? Is time not working against us demographically speaking?

[Shamir] I see Eretz Yisra'el in front of my eyes. Eretz Yisra'el has different problems, including demographic ones. This kind of problem has been with us throughout history, from ancient times till today. There has always been a problem of minorities. After all, the Zionist creation began at the end of the last century, when there was a decisive Arab majority here.

We need to work for immigration; I do not think we will be able to materialize our Zionist ideals without massive immigration. On the other hand, though, one should

view Eretz Yisra'el as one single complex. Both Jews and Arabs live in Eretz Yisra'el, and one should take into consideration the fact that we are destined to coexist.

[HA'ARETZ] You are surely not referring to a binational state.

[Shamir] Israel should be a Jewish state, and it will be so. One should find the way for non-Jews too to live in this country in peace and honor.

[HA'ARETZ] The Arabs have been engaged with the Persian Gulf war for 8 years, and we did not take advantage of the fact that the general attention focused on the Persian Gulf to make some gains for ourselves. Do you think that time worked in our favor in this case?

[Shamir] We have some masochistic tendency for self-accusation for anything which takes place in the world. This war has been going on for 8 years—why is it said that we have wasted this time? What should we have done? During these years Israel has strengthened itself economically and militarily, and earned more international prestige. The last 8 years have been a splendid period in relations between Israel and the United States. Such bilateral relations are unparalleled.

I do not see what we could have done in addition. We cannot torture ourselves daily. It is obvious that a new situation has been created now, that it has numerous implications which are still unclear to any of us. We should follow up developments and see how this new situation will affect the various elements in the region and in the entire world. I think that the atmosphere of peace in the Persian Gulf will also affect the conflict in the Middle East.

[HA'ARETZ] Husayn views the territories as a liability and wants to get rid of them. Would you suggest that he not do that?

[Shamir] I cannot influence King Husayn's decisions, but it is clear that whatever his stance, one day we will have to conduct negotiations with Jordan. We have a common and very long border with it, and a great number of Arabs of Palestinian origin live there, in addition. One should not exaggerate the weight which the king's remarks will carry.

Things change after they are stated. At any rate, Husayn is not disappearing from the Middle East arena and is not excluding himself from the series of Arab elements with whom we will have to conduct peace negotiations.

Unrest Estimated To Cost 3 Million Shekels Daily

TA2907121088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jul 88 p A2

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Excerpt] The Finance Ministry estimates that the indirect damage to the Israeli economy caused by the unrest in the territories will be a 1.5-percent drop in the 1988 gross national product [GNP]. This assessment was made to HA'ARETZ by Finance Minister Moshe Nisim.

Calculations made by HA'ARETZ show that a 1.5-percent drop in the 1988 GNP—in current prices and based on the 1987 GNP (55 billion shekels)—would mean a loss of some 830 million shekels annually.

The defense establishment estimates that the supplementary IDF and Defense Ministry budget for the period between December 1987 and March 1989 will reach 412 million shekels. These figures show that the direct and indirect cost of the unrest in the territories stands at more than 3 million shekels per day, or the annual sum of 1.139 billion shekels. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Comments on West Bank Moves
JN0308080488 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Aug 88 p 16

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah by Kuwait AL-QABAS; date not given]

[Text] The newspaper AL-QABAS addressed several questions to Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah on recent Jordanian measures, especially the announcement to disengage the legal and administrative relationship between Jordan and the West Bank.

In this telephone interview, the minister affirmed that the situation of the Jordanian expatriate in the Gulf is the same as that of the Jordanian in Amman and that the bridges between the two banks will remain open. He also affirmed that Jordan will continue to give every possible support and assistance to the occupied territory. Dr al-Khasawinah said Jordan will not abandon its aim to liberate the West Bank.

The minister began his interview as follows:

It should be pointed out that His Majesty King Husayn's address was basically prompted by the PLO's general and collective desire to take sole charge of all the affairs of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip even while under Israeli occupation.

Jordan, for its part, had to respond to this collective Palestinian demand over which it has been hesitant for many years, not out of a desire to annex the West Bank or Gaza but out of a desire to liberate the Palestinian territory first and then take up the issue of the Palestinian state and its relationship with Jordan.

Jordan has also been hesitatnt on this for many years, not out of a desire to annex the West Bank or Gaza but out of a desire to liberate the Palestinian territory first and then take up the issue of the Palestinian state and its relationship with Jordan.

Jordan has also been hesitant on this Palestinian demand because of its awareness of the interlocking daily life relations between the inhabitants under occupation and the Jordanian admiistration, which has tried—despite the occupation—to provide them with all possible assistance to lessen the impact of their difficult conditions until the occupation is removed.

So it must be understood that the Jordanian decision has not come from a vacuum. Jordan has made its decision with great pain, but also out of a firm pan-Arab commitment to back the Palestine question and the fraternal Palestinian people until they achieve their aims.

Jordan will always remain committed to a just peaceful settlement as a major party to the Arab-Israeli conlfict and as long as the occupation exists. In this fraternal spirit, Jordan will continue to deal with the PLO and also with all the daily life affairs of the people in the occupied territory as well as with all types of support and assistance needed by the inhabitants as long as they do not arouse the sensitivities of the PLO or expose us to doubts and recriminations that we want to compete with the PLO or create substitute leaderships.

We will continue to provide all this assistance by all the means within our power as an expression of our pan-Arab commitment and assertion of the special relationship between the two banks of Jordan.

All matters which bolster the steadfastness of the people in the occupied Palestinian territory will be discussed with the brothers in the PLO in a cooperative and fraternal spirit of solidarity so that our efforts will complement one another.

We will avoid the unhealthy situation that has existed these past years so that Jordanian support will not be misconstrued and portrayed as rivalry between Jordan and the PLO when both sides should be cooperating together in backing our steadfast people and preserving the identity of the land and the Arab inhabitants in the occupied territory.

[AL-QABAS] What does the disengagement of the administrative and legal relationship exactly mean?

[Al-Khasawinah] The disengagement of the administrative and legal relationship with the West Bank means that Jordan will immediately relinquish all the measures, institutions, relations, and legislation which used to provoke the brothers in the PLO and their supporters and make them believe that their continued existence means that Jordan is competing with the PLO in their representation and will meet every requirement by the PLO to be the sole side that has such a relationship with the West Bank.

At the same time the occupation makes joint cooperation between us and the PLO necessary in many of the issues connected with the daily life of the kinfolk and with giving them support, and that will continue through consultations and committees in an atmosphere free of the doubts that were cast on us during the past years.

All these bases will be discussed during the joint meetings between the two sides. I will give you an example of the disengagement of the administrative and legal relationship with regard to municipalities.

In the past Jordan provided financial assistance to the municipalities and preferred to have Arabs as mayors instead of Israeli officers, such as the late Zafir al-Masri in Nabulus and after him Hafiz Tuqan. Jordan provided financial assistance to these municipalities because they were part of occupied Jordanian territory.

The relationship was construed as an attempt to create an alternative Jordanian leadership instead of the PLO. Now that has stopped completely and we have left the matter to the PLO to deal with as it pleases together with the people there.

[AL-QABAS] What is the fate of West Bank employees who receive their salaries from the Jordanian Government?

[Al-Khasawinah] There are several categories of West Bank and Gaza Strip employees who receive their salaries from the government. Those who have been Jordanian Government employees since before the occupation and who remained in their work or retired will have their rights safeguarded and there is no question of infringing upon their rights. Their rights are social and contractual.

As for the employees who were hired through the development or other plans, their situation will be dealt with according to the provisions of their work contracts and there is no problem whatsoever in that regard.

[AL-QABAS] What will be the situation with regard to the civil status law and other Jordanian laws in the West Bank?

[Al-Khasawinah] Jordan applies its laws with regard to all matters that concern it or all that its courts hear. The personal status laws are supervised by the Higher Islamic Committee in Jerusalem and its courts, while the occupation authorities apply, in accordance with international law, the laws of the country it occupied. These issues are not connected with the disengagement of relationship.

[AL-QABAS] Will the bridges always remain open?

[Al-Khasawinah] The bridges are the lifeline of the kinfolk to their Arab environment and their outlet to the world. They were opened to serve their interests and at their request, and they are closed on the basis of these interests and in consultation with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

[AL-QABAS] Do these measures mean the 1950 agreement which established the unity of the two banks of the Jordan has been abolished?

[Al-Khasawinah] I am surprised to hear you say that a unionist document, such as the 1950 agreement, has been abolished and by the attempt to construe measures adopted at the request of the PLO as a violation of a unionist agreement. Jordan is not declaring its seccession from the West Bank or that it is abandoning it to the occupation authorities.

Jordan clearly declares that the West Bank is an occupied Arab land that must be liberated and that there will be no just peace without liberating it and all the occupied Arab territory.

Because the PLO is demanding to be, and insisting on being, responsible for the liberation of the West Bank, Jordan has responded to and agreed to the PLO demand. That is the whole matter. The actual unity of the two banks of the Jordan was disrupted by the 21-year-old Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

[AL-QABAS] Will military conscription continue to apply to Jordanians of Palestinian origin in Jordan and abroad?

[Al-Khasawinah] Details such as military conscription, birthplace, and movement issues will be discussed in the spirit of responsibility and duty in which Jordan takes pride in providing anything that may facilitate the life of our people under occupation, as well as in the spirit of assistance and love among brothers and sons.

These issues are not the target of the Jordanian measures. The aim of these measures is to strengthen confidence in the PLO and end doubts about Jordan's intentions. Jordan suffered much from these doubts, and accusations were leveled against it whenever it took any step toward the occupied territories.

Therefore, it wanted to end these doutbs and establish sound relations. Even the extending of assistance to the families of the uprising's martyrs or the detainees through Jordanian channels was rejected. There was no way to end these doubts other than by responding to the desire of the brothers in the PLO to assume these responsibilities and estalish a sound relationship.

[AL-QABAS] What is the status of the Jordanian expatriates in light of the new measures?

[Al-Khasawinah] The status of the Jordanian expatriates in the Arabian Gulf is similar to that of any Jordanian citizen in Amman or Irbid. Jordan takes pride in being a modern state. King Husayn was clear and decisive when he said that Jordan is a homeland for all Jordanians regardless of their place of birth.

Jordan's constitution and laws do not distinguish between any two citizens carrying Jordanian citizenship. This will continue. The expatriates are our sons, and we and they are the sons of one state. We are concerned about Jordan's strength so that it can serve the Palestine question and our nation's causes. Jordan is the state of everyone carrying its passport, its constitution stipulates complete equality, and its people are part and parcel of the Arab nation.

[AL-QABAS] Are there any measures relating to the expatriates' deposits in the Jordanian banks and will the dinar be affected?

[Al-Khasawinah] Regarding the expatriates' deposits and the Jordanian dinar, Jordan is a stable country. It enjoys security and prosperity and provides and encourages investment opportunities even for foreigners and it

is a transferable currency. The deposits of our expatriates are secure here as they are in the most stable places in the world. They will continue to be secure, God willing.

[AL-QABAS] Will the funds of the canceled development plan be transferred to the PLO?

[Al-Khasawinah] Regarding the funds of the development plan and its alternatives, His Majesty King Husayn explained that he had written to the friendly countries to urge them to continue to support the economy of our kinfolk under occupation through the PLO.

[AL-QABAS] Can the PLO supervise the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and will the occupation authorities approve such a supervision?

[Al-Khasawinah] The answer came from the PLO leaders. This depends on their ability to supervise aid and solve the problems of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Several days ago, I read statements by brothers in the PLO, including Faruq Qaddumi, stressing their ability to deal with development and other issues in the occupied territories. I hope they will succeed.

[AL-QABAS] Do we call holders of Jordanian passports in the West Bank Palestinians or Jordanians?

[Al-Khasawinah] Regarding your question whether we call carriers of the Jordanian passport Palestinians or Jordanians, I can say that the international law, all the citizenship laws, all countries, and the administrative and judiciary circles deal with any citizen in accordance with the document he carries.

Any person from Yafo who carries a Jordanian passport and shows it to the passport officials in Kuwait will be treated as Jordanian, but any Jordanian has the right to drop his citizenship.

[AL-QABAS] Shamir claims Jordan has forfeited its demand for Israeli withdrawal. What is your comment?

[Al-Khasawinah] You said that Shamir claims that Jordan has forfeited its demand for Israeli withdrawal and you ask for our comment. Our comment is that arrows fall on Jordan from every direction. The king's speech is clear in stating that Jordan sees no opportunity for peace without Israeli withdrawal. Jordan's problem with Shamir is that he does not believe in withdrawal or in the international conference.

We in Jordan have become accustomed to the campaigns of fabrication and innuendo, and we have acquired an immunity against them. The contribution of Jordan, a small country, to the Arab nation's causes and to the defense of national honor with the greatest degree of sincereity and responsibility is clear.

King Husayn's stand is appreciated and honored by his brothers, the leaders of the Arab nation, and the king and Jordan will always take pride in such appreciation and honor. The cause of Palestine and its honorable Arab people will always be Jordan's principal cause. Our destiny and the destiny of Palestine are parallel.

We shall approach the Palestine question and the international conference with the same national spirit and on basis of adopting a joint and cohesive Arab stand so as to achieve a just and genuine peace. What is important is the return of the occupied territory.

If we are successful in bringing back the West Bank and establishing an independent Palestinian state on it, Jordan will be the happiest country in the world. We said that to the brothers in the PLO 5 months ago when Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i met with them and conveyed to them that stand very clearly.

[AL-QABAS] It appears from the latest measures, that Jordan is pushing Israel and the United States to negotiate with the PLO over the future of the territories. Do you believe that can be achieved?

[Al-Khasawinah] With regard to negotiations between the PLO and Israel and the United States, we wish our brothers in the PLO well. We hope they will achieve whatever will end the state of suffering and occupation that exists in Palestinian territory.

[AL-QABAS] In practice is it possible to separate the Jordanian from the Palestinian?

[Al-Khasawinah] With regard to your question on whether it is possible in practice to separate the Jordanian from the Palestinian in view of the unbreakable ties that bind them, once again I say the issue is not one of separation. The issue is that the brothers in the PLO want to be the sole representatives of the Palestinian people and insist on that.

Is Jordan required to enter into a fight with them or respond to their request? When Jordan hesitated in answering, accusations were leveled against it and Jordan acceded to the request, and gave the PLO all the sole powers it wants to tackle the issue and represent the people.

Jordan as a state and as an experienced and responsible Arab leader will continue to distinguish between its political decision to give the PLO all that it wants while at the same time adhering to a unionist policy—and that was repeatedly emphasized by King Husayn in his speech. There is no future for all the Arabs and their states except by uniting, but unity must not be imposed and achieved by coercion.

[AL-QABAS] What will be the form of cooperation between the Jordanian Government and the PLO?

[Al-Khasawinah] We shall tackle the administrative issues and the issues that may arise as a result of the PLO assuming sole responsibility for Palestinian affairs in future meetings between us and the brothers in the PLO.

We are sure that all such issues will be tackled in a brotherly spirit by facilitating PLO affairs and making the lives of the fraternal Palestinian Arab people easier, and at the same time take into consideration the capabilities and circumstances of the Jordanian Arab people and the Jordanian state.

Matters between us will proceed in the same way they proceed among brothers. We pray to God that the new experience that is taking place at the PLO's request will strengthen relations and will achieve goodness, victory, and independence and remove the occupation.

The most important thing required of all good and aware Jordanians and Palestinians is to place the new measures in their right context—namely that they were the result of a Palestinian request and were adopted with PLO agreement and not through coercion by anyone.

It is thus necessary to be vigilant and aware that the measures are not given any unintended significance, for they aim to bring about greater coordination and closer ties and contacts and not separation, for separation occurred as a result of Israeli occupation and not for any other reason.

Al-Dajani on Forthcoming Measures in West Bank

JN0308073988 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Aug 88 p 18

[Text] Amman—REUTER—Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani said yesterday that the measures to implement Jordan's disengagement of its legal and administrative relationship with the occupied West Bank will not be taken overnight.

In an interview with REUTER, Al-Dajani said all matters relating to the disengagement process from the West Bank, will take time to study and appropriate measures will be taken only after considering the sensitivity and diversity of the issues.

Regarding predictions among Palestinians in Jordan and the West Bank that Jordan will withdraw passports carried by the West Bank residents or refuse to renew them, Al-Dajani said: It is too soon to comment on this issue. He added that keeping the Jordanian passport is a personal matter, and the concerned person can keep it or leave it.

A Jordanian source denied the day before yesterday a tendentious report by the Israeli television that Jordan plans to withdraw the passports carried by Palestinians in the West Bank. He described the report as unfounded.

Security Director Says Bridge Traffic 'Normal'

JN0308095088 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—General 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali, director of the Public Security, has said that traffic across the bridges between Jordan and the West Bank is normal and that there is no change in previous arrangements concerning movements over the bridges.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, he added that any new arrangements will be announced in advance. He also said: In this regard, we have nothing to conceal from the citizens and the citizens should not pay attention to rumors.

Monte Carlo on West Bank Disengagement Measures

JN0208134388 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Observers here believe that an atmosphere of amity will prevail in relations between Jordan and the PLO following Amman's announcement of disengagement of the legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank in response to the PLO's desire.

Jordan's move to give prominence to the Palestinian identity and its support for the establishment of an independent state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip will remove the PLO's current impression that Jordan has ambitions in the occupied territories.

Observers view Jordan's measures as a move to develop a more balanced relationship without suspicion after this relationship has passed through a phase of ups and downs over the 2 past decades.

For his part, Jordanian Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah affirmed that Amman will coordinate with the PLO on all issues relating to the people in the occupied territories and that it will continue to extend all sorts of assistance and support the inhabitants need.

In a statement to the press, he added that all institutions, legislatures, and relations which were a subject of dispute with the PLO will be abandoned by Jordan soon.

Regarding the West Bank Palestinians who carry Jordanian passports, an authorized source affirmed that Jordan does not plan to take any measures regarding these passports unless the PLO requests the opposite. He added that Amman's measures are not a punishment but an attempt to assist the Palestinian people under the occupation and give prominence to their national identity.

Moreover, Palestinian sources close to the PLO believe that now is the time for the PLO to establish a provisional Palestinian government on the West Bank to run the Palestinian affairs in the occupied Arab teritories.

TIMES Reports Further Reaction to King's Speech

JN0208074088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 88 pp 1,5

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter with agency dispatch]

[Excerpts] Amman—Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories and the Palestine Liberation Organisation as well as Arab circles Monday welcomed Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank.

Many Palestinians in the West Bank were quoted by international news agencies as expressing hope that the Jordanian decision, announced in a national speech by His Majesty King Husayn on Sunday, will be followed by decisive PLO action to shoulder its responsibilities as the sole legitiamte representative of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

"It's a good gesture for the Palestinians and it should start the ball rolling in the direction of working out strategic relationships between the PLO and Jordan in the future," Palestinian journalist Dawud Qutub of the Nazareth daily AL-SINNARAH told Israel Radio.

PLO Reaction

REUTERS quoted an Arab diplomat in Baghdad as saying that the PLO would send a mission to Jordan within 48 hours to discuss the Kingdom's move.

The diplomat, who was not identified, told the news agency that the mission would be headed by a member of the PLO Executive Committee. He said the Palestine Central Council (PCC) held urgent talks in Baghdad overnight and into Monday on the king's announcement. [passage omitted]

PLO officials said Chairman Yasir 'Arafat ordered an embargo on all public comments about Jordan's move until the Executive Committee has time to study it. [passage omitted]

A top 'Arafat aide, Bassam Abu Sahrif, said in Abu Dhabi the Jordanian decision was not intended to harm ties with the PLO.

He said it made clear to the world that the PLO was a key party to the Middle East conflict.

"Jordan's decision was in the line with Arab summit resolutions, especially the Algiers conference, and it is not meant to undermine the historic relationship between the PLO and Amman," Abu Sharif said.

"These measures... clarify that no peace is possible in the region without the superpowers dealing with the two major powers involved in the conflict, namely the PLO and Israel," Abu Shairf said.

Abu Sharif was addressing a press conference late Sunday as the king was delivering his address, broadcast on television and radio, explaining that the recent measures adopted by Jordan were aimed at giving greater responsibility for Palestinian affairs to the PLO and enhancing the Palestinian national orientation.

Jordan's measures included cancellation of the Kingdom's development programme for the occupied territories and dissolution of the lower House of Parliament in which half the 60 members represent the West Bank.

Abu Sharif said that the PLO would accept a confederation with Jordan after the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza adding that there can be no peace in the Middle East without such an independent state.

Abu Sharif said at the press conference that PLO had called on U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to protect the Palestinian in the occupied territories from the Israeli soldiers. [passage omitted]

A spokesman for the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) told Reuters: "The move is a step on the way to the final independence of the Palestinian people."

Comments by several deputies in the lower House and citizens were carried by the AP and REUTERS.

"I would like to convey in the name of thousands to the King not to sever unity" between the East and West Banks, said Wahid al-Ja'bari, who represented Hebron.

Mufid Mubaslat, who sat for Nabulus, said that while "we respect the constitutional decision and political procedures which will reflect positively on the Palestinian issue... we do not accept that it should be on the expense of our people's unity in the two banks."

"I am deeply sorry that matters have reached this stage," said architect Ja'far Tuqan. "I beseech the King and the PLO to reconsider everything and reestablish the old unity formula."

Carlos Di'mis, who represented Bethlehem, said he regretted the break and hoped it would not last.

"I have always advocated full coordination between Jordan and the PLO. I can't understand why the price for this should be disolving the historical and physical unity of the two banks," he said.

'Umar Nabulsi, a Palestinian lawyer and former labour minister, said the king's stress on national unity was a reassurance to Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

"We are Jordanians first of all. But that should not contradict with us clinging on to our Palestinian identity in confronting the Israeli enemy." he said. [passage omitted]

Iraq's Ramadan Conveys Message to President

JN0308103888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Amman, 3 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member, first deputy prime minister, and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother Jordan's Monarch King Husayn, arrived here today from Sanaa.

Ramadan was received at Amman International airport by Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, senior government and military officials, and the dean of the Arab diplomatic corps in Amman.

The Iraqi envoy had earlier visited Kuwait,Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the YAR.

In a statement upon arrival, Ramadan said that he is carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Husayn, and that the message deals with the distinguished fraternal relations between the two countries, recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war, and current efforts to implement Resolution 598 and achieve peace.

He stressed that Iraq adheres to its firm stand toward achieving a true and comprehensive peace. He said that Iraq rejects any attempt to divide the resolution, particularly any attempt aimed at only reaching a cease-fire. He stressed that the sound basis for achieving a true, comprehensive peace is direct negotiations between the two sides.

Ramadan added that his visit to Jordan is within the framework of joint coordination and consultations with the brothers to arrive at the best means to confront challenges to the Arab nation.

Discusses War, Resolution

JN0308132988 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and Iraqi RCC member, arrived in Amman this noon on a visit to Jordan as part of a tour of the region which included Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the YAR.

In a press interview which he gave upon arrival, Ramadan said that the purpose of his visit to Jordan is to inform King Husayn of the Iraqi viewpoint on the latest developments in the peace efforts aiming to end the Iraq-Iran war and the latest military developments on the front.

He said that Jordan and Iraq are in the same trench facing the challenges and difficulties. Therefore, the leaderships of the two fraternal countries have made it a point to continue coordination to define the means of diplomatic and political confrontation.

He pointed out that the Iran-Iraq war has moved into a new stage. This is the case also with the peace efforts aiming to end this war.

Ramadan added that these developments call for stronger coordination and discussion to confront any Iranian maneuvers or exploitation of this period where everyone is occupied with applying Security Council Resolution 598 dealing with the Iran-Iraq war.

He affirmed Iraq's full abidance by the resolution and insistance on its application according to the order of its paragraphs to realize comprehensive peace and stop the war.

In answer to a question on what was announced on U.N. secretary general's determination to issue a decision on a cease-fire, despite Iraq's demand that a cease-fire should be preceded by discussions between Iraq and Iran, Ramadan said: such step would harm the peace process. We do not think that the international organization's secretary general is the guardian [aminan] of peace.

Ramadan was received by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, the ministers, a number of military and civilian ranking officials, Iraqi charges d'affaires in Amman and embassy staff.

Concludes Visit

JN0308152288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member, first deputy prime minister, and President Saddam Husayn's envoy, left Amman this afternoon. He was seen off by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i ministers, senior civilian and military officials, doyen of the Arab diplomatic corps, the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Amman, and the embassy staff.

Hostage Release Involves Trade for Hamadahs
NC0208161488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] In a new development in the hostage issue, the Al-Suhufiyah News Agency has quoted prominent sources as saying that intensive efforts concerning the hostage issue succeeded recently in making arrangements for the release of some hostages in the near future.

The sources believe that the hostages to be released will be two British nationals and a West German.

The sources explained that this agreement is part of a large deal which also includes two Lebanese citizens detained in the FRG, Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah and his brother.

Other sources have stated that they expect the release of the U.S. hostages to be delayed. The sources did not give reasons for this delay.

'Source' Expects 'Happy Ending' for Hostages
NC0308070788 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 1 Aug 88 p 8

[Text] A highly placed security source has stated that there will soon be a happy ending to the issue of foreign hostages being held in Lebanon. The same source noted that extremely high-level contacts are currently taking place between officials representing the states, foremost the United States, to which the hostages belong, and a state which has direct custodianship of the kidnappers.

The source went on to disclose that the contacts are being conducted directly, and not through a third party. He maintained that the solution of the hostage issue will coincide with the U.S. presidential elections.

Syria's Talas: $10 Million for Schmidt Release
NC0308053088 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas confirmed yesterday that $10 million had been paid to secure the release of FRG hostage Alfred Schmidt last September.

In an interview with the FRG STERN magazine, Talas disclosed that an agreement to release FRG hostage Rudolf Cordes was abrogated because of the U.S. Government's intervention.

Departure of Revolutionary Guards Reported
NC0308064188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Aug (MENA)—The Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD paper has reported that 400 members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards left Lebanon for Iran via Damascus Airport this week.

The paper quotes a senior security source in Beirut as saying that 600 other Revolutionary Guards remain in the Al-Biqa' area amid strong indications that they are preparing to return to Tehran as well. This development reflects Iran's determination to diminish its presence in Lebanon.

Palestinian Deportees Hold News Conference
NC0308131288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] The eight Palestinian deportees held a news conference at the Headquarters of the International Red Cross in Ksarah today. During the conference, they released a statement, saying:

We, the eight deportees from our homeland Palestine, reject our deportation decision as politically motivated, one of a series of suppressive measures adopted by the occupation authorities to check the uprising and to terrorize our people to prevent them from continuing their heroic struggle which aims to secure their right to determine their own fate and establish their independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people.

The statement adds: The greatness of our people and their valiant uprising stems from the fact that we are struggling with our hands and bodies against a fascist army that is equipped with all types of murderous and destructive weapons.

Despite this, the Zionist gangs have not been able to triumph over our people. The Zionist enemy's military and political leaders even have admitted that a military solution will not resolve the problem.

The statement continues: Our people's uprising will continue and their resistance will not abate irrespective of whatever suppressive methods the occupation authorities may devise. We believe that the best support the Arab masses can extend to our uprising and people is to be in solidarity with them and to direct all capabilities and resources toward vanquishing the occupation and, pending this, halting the enemy's suppressive measures in their various forms.

The statement adds: We appeal to all international, Arab, and humanitarian institutions and organizations to exert efforts to compel Israel to halt its deportation policy and to repatriate the deportees to their homeland.

In conclusion, the statement addresses a greeting to the Palestinian people's struggle under the banner of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. The statement also salutes the Unified National Leadership—the staff command of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

PNSF Force Deployed in Beirut Camps

NC0308111488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] With regard to the security of the Palestinian camps, the Palestinian security force made up of 340 PNSF members completed their deployment in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps at noon today. The PNSF set up this force to establish security in the camps preparatory to their reconstruction.

A PNSF official source has stated that the deployment process commenced at 1000 today when 265 members equipped with light arms deployed in Burj al-Barajinah.

They took up positions along the combat lines of Al-Mashnuq, Al-Jalbut, Martyrs' Square, and Haifa Hospital under the command of Abu Ras. Meanwhile, 75 members deployed in Shatila along the lines of Al-Dukhi, Ramallah Hospital, Shatila Mosque, Qariha, and Hayy Farhat under the command of Abu Firas.

Factions Deny Participation

NC0308135188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Six Palestinian factions in Beirut—the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, Fatah-The Revolutionary Council, the DFLP, the PFLP, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party—have denied a report published by Lebanese newspapers today that a joint force will deploy in Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps.

The factions asserted that they are not participating in this force, which is solely composed of PNSF parties.

Army Issues Statement on 'Fabricated' Reports

NC0308105988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Statement issued by the Army Command on 3 August]

[Text] In an attempt to carry out their schemes targeted at the forthcoming constitutional deadline represented by the presidential elections, certain parties have circulated fabricated reports about nonexistent meetings, contacts, activities, and statements and attribute these to military leaders in an attempt to harm the military institution, its individuals, and its role.

The real motive underlying these rumors is to present a false image of the Army, cast doubts about its significant nationalist role in protecting the fateful presidential deadline, and to distract the peoples' attention from what some parties may be planning for this deadline.

It is regrettable that some mass media have been dragged into publishing fabricated and false reports without first attempting to verify them.

Well aware of its nationalist role in this decisive stage, the Army Command asserts its eagerness to protect personal and public freedoms and its readiness to protect the presidential deadline and the security of the parliamentary and democratic life.

The Command would like to stress to the Lebanese public that its main concern is to play a successful role in protecting the presidential elections and in enabling the honorable Chamber of Deputies to perform its nationalist role.

The Army Command warns against going too far in casting doubts about the military institution and misleading the public. It asserts that it will not allow any of these parties to achieve their goals through their serious actions at the expense of the interests of the homeland, the citizen, and democracy.

Magazine Indicted

NC0308115988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] A military source has stated that the AL-MASIRAH AL-NAJWA magazine [as heard] was referred to the military court this morning for publishing reports which harm the Army and cast doubts about its nationalist role.

Envoy Instructed To Attend Arab League Meeting

NC0308142288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] In response to directives from Dr Salim al-Huss, acting prime minister and foreign minister, Ambassador Salah Staytiyah, political affairs director at the Foreign Ministry, has cabled Lebanon's Ambassador in Tunis Sulayman Farah asking him to attend the Arab League Council meeting on the issue of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, should such a meeting take place.

Staytiyah asked the ambassador to voice Lebanon's reservation at any resolution, to regard such a resolution as intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs, to emphasize respect for Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, and to stress that the camps are part of Lebanon's security.

In another development, Ambassador Staytiyah followed up Lebanon's complaint to the UN Security Council over the deportation of several Palestinians to Lebanon.

Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent delegate to the United Nations, has informed Staytiyah that he submitted the complaint to the UN Security Council chairman for August today.

Israeli Planes in Mock Raids Over Sidon, Camps

NC0208192088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1?'5 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Israeli combat aircraft carried out mock air raids on Sidon and the nearby camps at 2100 today. The planes dropped flares and were confronted with antiaircraft fire.

2 Killed in Resistance Attack in South

NC0208172488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Marking the 5th anniversary of the martyrdom of Comrades Salih Fa'iq, Nasir al-'Irm, and Nasri Abu Hasan, Popular Liberation Army units belonging to the martyr Kamal Junblatt forces attacked positions of the Israeli occupation forces and their agents on the Shwayya hills, Wadi al-Habbariyah, and Mount Hermon slopes at dawn today.

Several of those manning the posts were killed, a tracked vehicle was damaged, and its occupants were killed or wounded.

Israeli radio has admitted that two soldiers were killed and a vehicle was damaged.

Industry Minister Returns From Visit to Romania
JN3007163888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Industry Minister Antoine Jubran returned from Bucharest to Damascus last night, following a week-long visit to Romania at the head of an industrial and technical delegation.

He held talks with Romanian officials to deepen industrial and technical cooperation in various spheres.

During the visit an agreement was signed between specialized industrial establishments in the two countries to produce agricultural tractors for the Euphrates Tractors Company in Aleppo using Romanian engines and other spare parts. Agreement was also reached on the production of 30-, 40-, and 50-horsepower tractors.

U.S. 'Serious Decision' on Moving Embassy Viewed
JN3007064188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Jul 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Congressional Decision and the Required Arab Response," AL-THAWRAH says:

Facts and situations throughout the 8-year-old rule of the Reagan administration at the White House have revealed a blind U.S. bias toward Israel and its hostile, expansionist policy against the Arab nation.

One cannot wait for the end of the Reagan administration's term in office to judge the results of 8 years of increasing military, political, and financial support for Israel.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Reagan administration has entrenched the concept of strategic alliance between the United States and the Zionist entity. This administration has given this alliance its practical meanings militarily and economically in an unprecedented manner.

The Reagan administration has founded rules to develop this alliance to give all support to the Zionist entity as well as to employ U.S. foreign policy in the service of the requirements of the expansionist Zionist ambitions.

AL-THAWRAH adds: On the eve of the Reagan administration's departure from the political arena, in which it left dark memories in Arab minds, that administration began to prepare for a serious decision represented by the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to the Zionist entity to occupied Jerusalem.

The U.S. Congress adopted an amendment attached to a draft law on allocating the required funds for the State Department to establish two buildings for U.S. diplomats in occupied Palestine in preparation for the move of the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem.

The decision came in terms of its content as the most serious decision by the U.S. Congress against the Arab nation, the Palestinian Arab people, and the Arabs' legitimate aspirations of regaining their complete usurped rights and liberating occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem.

AL-THAWRAH says: The seriousness of such a decision does not only stem from Washington's ignorance of international resolutions calling for preserving the Arab identity of occupied Jerusalem or from its being a challenge to the feelings of the Arabs and Muslims who have deep-rooted historical and religious ties with the holy city.

The seriousness of this decision, which comes within the framework of the U.S. policy hostile to the Arab nation, also stems from the fact it discloses the reality and essence of U.S. policy.

This U.S. policy disregards the basic components and requirements of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. By adopting this decision, Washington is not only satisfied with feeding the expansionist Zionist ambitions and the Israeli objectives of adhering to the occupation of Arab territory, but it also further ignores Arab rights and supports and backs the Zionist occupation policy.

AL-THAWRAH says. This matter requries, as of now, an effective Arab, Islamic, and international move to confront this serious decision as well as any subsequent decisions toward moving the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem.

It also requires an effective Arab response to stop this blind U.S. bias toward Israel.

Paper Sees 'Nothing New' in Upcoming Murphy Visit
JN3107071088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 31 Jul 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Murphy's Tour and the Three Objectives," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in a comment today:

Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, is preparing for a new Middle East tour, which seems to have three objectives. As news agencies said, the tour will revolve around the Palestine question, the Lebanese issue, and the situation in the Gulf.

All this will take place in light of developments in the region in general as well as the growing international detente resulting from the Soviet-U.S. summit meetings.

To talk about any of these topics, it must first be stressed that the quest for solutions must be based on essential considerations and pillars which are difficult to be ignored or even changed.

The Palestine question is the primary and mother issue to which the Arabs and the world are seeking to achieve a just solution, a solution which secures usurped rights. Our kinfolk's escalating revolution in the occupied land is making daily sacrifices for the full restoration of these rights.

This is the primary issue which the enemies of the Arabs tried to remove from history and geography and replace it with marginal issues which preoccupy the Arabs, exhaust their resources, and spread confusion among their ranks.

The murdered Al-Sadat, who betrayed the pan-Arabism of the October war of liberation and sold out his honor and conscience at Deversoir Station [signal station on Suez Canal], threatened to immerse Lebanon in blood. The evil forces have cooperated against the sisterly country since 1975 to exhaust it and preoccupy Arab Syria with its wounds.

When these forces found they had gained nothing, they instructed their tyrant agent in Baghdad to start an unjust war whose danger and objectives are no less grave than the conspiracy against Lebanon.

Nevertheless, the enemies of our nation reap nothing from the attempts to obliterate the Palestinian cause but disappointment, failure, and bitterness. Years have passed quickly.

Al-Asad's Syria has adhered to the essential issue and dealt with developments courageously and wisely. It has maintained the purity of the Palestine question which has regained its glitter in the Arab homeland and the world with every passing day of the heroic uprising. This concerns the Zionist enemy and the U.S. Administration which occasionally activates its diplomacy.

Therefore, we find nothing new in Murphy's suitcase regarding a just solution, unless his administration proves serious reconsideration of its calculations, headed by abandoning the blind support for the Zionist entity. Would this administration, even for once, take such a step, especially before leaving the White House?

Radio Commentary Views Effect of 'Uprising'

JN3107144488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Every time a U.S. official visits the region, his visit is preceded by statements that talk about encouraging signs, especially when the issue pertains to peddling a U.S.-sponsored settlement.

The existence of encouraging signs, according to U.S. concepts, means there are indications of inclinations to accept the ideas and plans proposed and put forward by the United States.

However, once this or that trip by U.S. officials ends, these officials make statements that the results that they reached are no more than a sort of understanding which encourages them to continue what they call their efforts to contribute toward the endeavors being exerted to resolve the regional conflict.

U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, who has paid four trips to the Middle East since February, has admitted that the chances of success for his political plan are very dim. However, he added the United States considers this plan as a basis for its Middle East policy even after the end of President Reagan's term later this year.

This means Washington is not only showing adherence to the pursuit of policies that seek to conclude phased and partial deals based on the Camp David accords, but also wagers on another Al-Sadat designed to bypass the facts pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict and thereby fall in the Camp David quagmire.

The document formulated by Abu Sharif, 'Arafat's adviser, and the secret bilateral contacts between the leader of the Palestinian course of deviation and the Zionist enemy through Romania and also through the secret direct contacts consummated between 'Arafat and the terrorist Shamir through the good offices of Israeli intermidaries mean that [words indistinct] play the role previously played by the traitor Al-Sadat, the manifestation of which was demonstrating submission to the Zionist enemy and joining the Camp David bandwagon so they could join the direct negotiations table which means, according to the Isrelis, that all Arab parties that join these negotiations will be obliged to recognize Israel and its security, to terminate the status of war with Israel, and to abandon what it terms preconditions.

The preconditions referred to here are the two basic principles to which the Arabs have been adhering; namely, restoration of the occupied Arab territories and realization of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights to self-determiantion, repatriation, and establishing an independent Palestinian state.

The question posed right now is: Why have 'Arafat and his clique revealed their cards in such a disgraceful manner, despite the fact Washington puruses the game of quiet diplomacy in peddling its plan regarding the conclusion of a phased settlement?

The answer lies in the grave dangers posed by the popular uprising to the parties that stand to get harmed by it; namely, first, the Zionist enemy, which has admitted it is incapable of aborting the uprising, which has forced it into a dark tunnel from which it cannot extricate itself.

Besides, this uprising has exposed this enemy's terrorist practices. Furthermore, it has also exposed this enemy on the international level.

The second party that stands to get harmed by this uprising is the United States, which admitted the situation in the occupied Arab territories cannot return to the status that prevailed before the outbreak of the uprising.

That is why it launched the Shultz plan to prevent the occurrence of a new strategic decline in its Middle East policy following the foiling of the 17 May 1984 agreement.

A political definition of the uprising would render it as rejection of the Israeli occupation and a revolutionary awakening designed to foil this occupation and all the plans and schemes that seek to liquidate the Palestine question and on top of all these plans and schemes come the Camp David accords.

The third party that stands to be harmed because of the popular uprising is the Egyptian regime, which has been besieged by the popular uprising on the national and pan-Arab levels, as this uprising has exposed its treasonous role in peddling U.S.-Zionist schemes, especially those pertaining to peddling the limited self-rule conspiracy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip—the self-rule which would maintain the Israeli occupation and legitimize it.

The fourth party that stands to lose by the uprising is the 'Arafatist line of deviation, which is wagering on the mirage of the U.S. solution that was carried by Shultz to the region—the solution that envisages the conclusion of a phased settlement within the framework of an international conference that has no powers at all.

This deviationist course has not been satisfied with announcing its readiness to recognize Israel. Nay, it went beyond that when it succumbed to the conditions set by Washington and Tel Aviv regarding the abandonment of the Palestinian National Charter and the combat rifle.

This abandonment, as a matter of fact, is tantamount to conspiring against the Palestine question, which is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Furthermore, it is also tantamount to stabbing the popular uprising in the back before this uprising manages to achieve its central objectives of liberation and ending the Israeli occupation.

In light of these four points, those who stand to get harmed by the popular uprising are initiating moves within the framework of the same scheme, as the continuation of the uprising will sweep away the terrorist-colonial situation represented by the hostile and expansionist conquest.

Syria, through its leader His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, has affirmed it will not allow this conquest to bring the Arabs to their knees or impose hegemony on them.

The president added Syria will continue the struggle firmly until the Zionist Torah scheme designed to be implemented in the Arab homeland is foiled.

Afghanistan

Update on Battles for Kabul, Qandahar, Jalalabad

BK0308051088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0458 GMT 3 Aug 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 3 (AFP)—Soviet forces have launched a series of attacks to free Kabul from rebel rocket fire, but the garrison town of Jalalabad is also under heavy pressure and Qandahar the second largest city has been badly damaged, diplomatic sources say here.

Soviet and Afghan government forces, militiamen and combat groups of the KHAD, Kabul's secret service, are locked in combat in a 50-kilometer area to the east, southeast and northeast of the capital, they said late Tuesday.

Jalalabad, about 100 kilometers from Kabul, is under permanent pressure from the mujahidin rebels raiding the city's outlying military posts, who last week fired dozens of rockets at the city, sources said.

Soviet-Afghan Air Forces have repeatedly bombed Paghman city, the former monarchy's summer capital north of Kabul that has been the scene of fierce fighting, sources said.

The rebels have so far failed to hold a provincial capital for more than 48 hours due to Soviet reinforcements and constant intervention by Soviet and Afghan Government Air Forces, observers say here.

At least 70 percent of Afghanistan's second biggest city, Qandahar, has been destroyed in fighting, leaving more than two-thirds of the population homeless, state-run Radio Kabul said Tuesday in a broadcast monitored here.

Soviet troops have begun to evacuate the city, sources said.

Sources close to the United Nations here said an airlift would be soon set up to evacuate Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The rebels have fired more than 300 rockets at Kabul during the last two weeks and have hit the French Embassy and the German Club, said a diplomat who just returned from Kabul.

"Some of them hit military targets, but most fall at random," he added.

The rebels have accused the Soviets of firing rockets into Kabul themselves to make it look as if the mujahidin were killing civilians.

East European embassies and Western missions have reduced their personnel in Kabul to a minimum, and the families of U.N. diplomats have left.

"At Shomali to the north of Kabul the clashes are violent," diplomats said.

The strategic Salang Highway that links Afghanistan to the Soviet Union to the north, as well as the road to Jalalabad in the east, have been closed to civilian traffic, they said.

The Soviets have withdrawn 25,000 soldiers from Afghanistan under an agreement signed in Geneva in April and will probably increase the number of convoys heading to the Soviet Union in the next few days, sources here close to the United Nations said.

But the presence of the elite 11th Afghan Division, minefields and heavy artillery are repelling rebel efforts to seize Jalalabad, sources said.

The city, once known for its commercial activity, is now "economically dead"—the market is half empty and numerous merchants, shop owners, Hindus and Sikhs have abandoned Jalalabad for Kabul, rebel and diplomatic sources said.

The governor's house and the KHAD buildings have been hit by rebel rockets.

Combat is continuing around Spin Buldak, a garrison city in Qandahar Province in southern Afghanistan about several hundred meters from the Pakistani border, sources said.

The Soviet command has planned on evacuating its troops from Qandahar by August 15, when 50,000 Soviet troops must be withdrawn from the country under the Geneva agreement, sources close to the United Nations said.

The agreement requires the Soviet Union, which intervened in Afghanistan in 1979 to prop up a client government, to withdraw all its estimated 115,000 troops by February 1989.

'Extremists' Strike in Herat, Paktia Provinces

LD0308044588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 2, BAKHTAR—The armed extremists have recently brought under artillery attack the residential houses in Enjil District, Herat Province and have killed seven innocent persons and injured two including women and children.

According to another report, owing to the explosion of antivehicle mines by the opposition armed groups in the course of Gardeyz Road, and Seyyed Karam District, Paktia Province, two persons were killed and eight injured.

'Extremist Group' in Paghman District 'Crushed'

LD0208174088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section reports that in the course of operations to mop up Paghman District yesterday, the Armed Forces crushed another extremist group. The report adds that as a result of the operation, which was carried out with the direct cooperation of the local people, one rocket missile unit, one DShK, and a number of the enemy's strongholds were destroyed and dozens of antipersonnel and antitank mines were discovered and deactivated. Also during the operation, (?80) extremists were crushed.

According to another report, the military crushed a band of warmongering elements that intended to disrupt the peaceful life of the people of Towtamdarreh-ye 'Olya, Parvan Province. As a result of the operation, 3 extremists were captured and 4 were crushed.

Government Claims Successes Against 'Warmongers'

LD3107174488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Excerpts] A warmongering extremist group that wanted to disrupt the peaceful life of people in Paghman District was crushed yesterday by the Armed Forces.

As a result of this operation, which was carried out with the direct cooperation of the local people, seven warmongers were crushed and their four hideouts destroyed. During this operation, a recoilless gun was destroyed, and 18 rocket launchers, 19 mortars, a surface-to-surface missile, and an assortment of weapons were captured.

According to another report, a number of extremists who wanted to disrupt the peaceful life of people in Khas Konar District and Narang Subdistrict were crushed yesterday as a result of strikes by the Armed Forces. The report adds that 20 criminals were killed and a recoilless gun and a DShK machinegun was destroyed.

The BAKHTAR military correspondent in Konarha Province adds that a meeting was held in Narang Subdistrict in recognition of the brave and patriotic participation in the operation by the people of Pashshad. The governor and commander of Konarha delivered a speech at the meeting and applauded the self-sacrifice of the youths of Pashshad. The report says that the Pashshad residents, along with the Armed Forces, have killed more than 100 extremists armed with light and heavy arms during successful operations to defend peace and order in the province. During this meeting, a number of families whose houses were damaged as a result of the enemy's heavy-weapons fire were granted cash assistance. [passage omitted]

The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports from Jalalabad that an extremist arms cache was discovered today by the vigilant security forces in Darreh-ye Sorkh Rud District of Nangarhar Province. The report adds that during this operation, which was carried out with the direct cooperation of the local people, 2 boxes of DShK ammunition and 20 mortar shells were captured.

64th Protest Note Handed to UN Mission

LD0208205888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pasht o 1530 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry liaison office with UNGOMAP [United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports that the 64th protest note of the Republic of Afghanistan on three cases of Pakistan's violation of the Geneva agreements was today handed to the mission's office.

The note details Pakistan's clear infringement of Article 2, Instrument I, and Article 4, Instrument III of the Geneva agreements, and requests the mission to investigate these cases of violations by Pakistan, and to report its findings to the relevant authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and the representative of the UN secretary general.

Najibullah Addresses Creative Intellectuals

LD0308082188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 2, BAKHTAR—President Najibullah meets today the leaderships of the unions of creative intellectuals and literary men here.

Addressing the participants, the president of the Republic of Afghanistan stressed upon the role of creative intellectuals in bringing about peace, implementation of national reconciliation and putting an end to bloodshed in the country.

The president called upon the intellectuals to intensify their activities. Pointing to the flaws existing in the fields Najibullah specified ways of removing the existing shortcomings.

The meeting was also addressed by Abdulhamid Muhtat, vice-president who briefed the meeting about the results of the resolutions of the Second Congress of Creative Intellectuals in the implementation of national reconciliation. Chairman of Creative Unions also spoke at the meeting.

Mangal Discusses Relations With Soviets
AU0108124188 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 29 Jul 88 p 4

[Interview with Muhammad Sarwaw Mangal, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, by TRUD correspondent Raycho Radulov in Moscow—date not given]

[Text] The Afghan delegation to the recent USSR-Afghan talks was led by Muhammad Sarwaw Mangal, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Afghanistan.

[Mangal] I came to discuss many issues related to further developing USSR-Afghan economic, technological, and trade cooperation. We are the representatives of the new Afghan Government, which adheres to reconciliation, coalition, and compromises. We signed many documents, which included agreements on cooperation in geological research, utilizing natural resources, and developing the gas industry. We discussed the issue of expanding the participation of private capital in Afghanistan in trade and industry and creating joint companies with the participation of third countries.

[Radulov] How will USSR-Afghan relations develop in future?

[Mangal] First of all, they will develop in the area of good-neighborly relations and cooperation based on trust, equality, and mutual assistance. We have already worked out a detailed program on economic cooperation until the year 2000. Some 100 industrial enterprises have been commissioned in Afghanistan with Soviet assistance and 100 projects are under construction. Unfortunately, the undeclared war against our country continues, and this prevents us from renewing and constructing our economy.

[Radulov] Recently, one has been able to observe intensified activity by the Peshawar seven and actions of the armed opposition in the country.

[Mangal] Yes, some 170 "surface-to-surface" missiles have been fired against Kabul in recent months with the assistance of reactionary circles in Pakistan. Some 143 people have been killed and more than 200 wounded. A missile that exploded in a children's playground near my house killed 17 children. However, the policy of reconciliation has produced successes: More than 150,000 refugees have returned and more than 50,000 members of the armed opposition have surrendered. The 'Id al-Adha Muslim holiday ended yesterday. The policy of reconciliation allowed many members of the opposition to celebrate the holiday together with their families. President Najibullah appealed to everyone to observe the cease-fire during the holiday and demonstrate a humane attitude. He received 342 members of the anti-government groups active in the Province of Kabul. In other regions of the country members of the opposition have been received by the governors and representatives of the provincial authorities.

[Radulov] Many people, including the friends of Afghanistan, are expressing concern that the government will not be able to prevail after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. They are expecting a hard time....

[Mangal] We have lived through a hard time, and we are expecting more of the same. For 10 years as much money was spent as was invested in developing the country during the preceding 40 years.

However, your question apparently implies something else. We are confident in our victory. In 19 provinces now there are no Soviet troops. The enemies used to say that Qandahar and Jalalabad will fall tomorrow.... It never happened. The people are supporting the policy of reconciliation. Our Army and the people's police are capable of defending the people's achievements.

[Radulov] Nevertheless, do you envisage an end to the bloody and undeclared war?

[Mangal] Yes, we shall prevail despite our difficulties. We do not demand a monopoly on any state or executive post. The appeal for prudence is finding a broad and positive response among the people, including the opposition.

Herat Province Army Commander Reassures Populace
LD3107182088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] In accordance with the Geneva accords, under which the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union are returning home, our heroic Armed Forces are bravely defending the territorial integrity and gains of the April revolution. Our correspondent has interviewed the commander of an Army corps in Herat Province in this regard, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording in Dari] [Unidentified correspondent] Esteemed Brigadier General (Muhammad Daud Azizi), commander of the IV Army Corps in Herat Province, all our compatriots are aware that the limited contingents of the friendly Soviet Union are returning to their peace-loving country as a result of the Geneva accords. Please tell us what preparations have been made by the IV Army Corps in Herat Province in this regard following the departure of the limited Soviet contingents from Herat Province?

[(Azizi)] After the limited Soviet contingents leave, we will have sufficient power to defend our revolution and our people. Our units and companies have a high level of combat and technical readiness. We are ready at all times to defend the people's honor. No one should have any doubt in this regard. It should be added that if we realize that the honor and prestige of the people and our

revolutionary sovereignty are threatened and endangered by the opposition, we will find resources that we have not used yet. Our people should be confident that their children in the Armed Forces can defend their honor.

It should also be added that we have a strong determination and sufficient political patience. Under the Geneva accords, it is well known that a large number of Soviet units have left many Afghan provinces. However, no one was able to achieve anything. The provinces are still in place and the revolutionary rule is implementing the state's economic, political, and social plans there. Once again, I can authoritatively reassure the people of Afghanistan, and in particular the people of Herat Province, that we are sufficiently strong. Our people should realize that this is not showing off; this is not a slogan. It is action. Let them test us again in the test of history to see whether we have the power to defend the revolutionary sovereignty and the people's interests. Certainly we have this. [end recording]

Reconstruction Continues in Qandahar Province

LD0308014788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] On top of the damage to lives and property suffered by Qandahar as a result of the undeclared war, residences and other buildings have also suffered enormous damage. All in all, it can be said that 70 percent of the establishments and buildings in Qandahar have been either destroyed or damaged, said Engineer Wali Muhammad Rasuli, deputy minister of construction and assistant administrative chief of Qandahar.

Rasuli added that preliminary calculations show that a great deal of money is required for the reconstruction of residential areas and other establishments and buildings. In light of this, the Republic of Afghanistan has paid much attention to the reconstruction of Qandahar Province. Investment in 1987 and planned investment for 1988 is many times higher than in previous years. This amount could be more effectively utilized in conditions of normalcy. In 1984-86, we carried out a few small-investment schemes through three or four construction corporations with a work capacity of 100-150 million afghanis. In 1987, construction and repairs worth 700 million afghanis were carried out in a total of 52 schemes. Similarly, in 1988, the amount of investment and the number of schemes have been held at the same level. Private entrepreneurs have assisted us; 50 percent of the work has been carried out by private enterprise, especially those schemes that have been disrupted by the armed extremists, such as the health centers in Arghandab, Daman, and Maywand Districts; the repairing of schools; the construction of bridges; the exploitation of quarries; and [words indistinct] production.

The deputy construction minister added that the streets of Qandahar were paved at least 22 years ago, but no paving can be seen in the eastern section now. It is obvious that the people of Qandahar face many problems because of the dust raised by the movement of vehicles. Taking into account these great needs of the people of Qandahar, the government has paid much attention to the reconstruction and paving of streets. In the last quarter of 1987, new streets were gravelled in all four districts of Qandahar and 43 new bridges were built. The 18-km road from the city to the airport has been paved. Repair and gravel-laying work is being carried out continuously.

In the first quarter of this year, a concrete factory, a rock-processing plant, and some generators that were sent from Kabul were set up and began production. Finally, on 27 April, the anniversary of the April Revolution, the paving of Qandahar streets began for the first time in 22 years. We have completed the paving plan by 30 percent and the gravel-laying plan by 95 percent. We are completely ready to fulfill the plans ahead of schedule and to repair the 5-km road between Qandahar and Shur Andam. A section of this road has already been completed.

Security Forces Uncover Kabul Arms Cache

LD2907215088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] City security forces today seized a number of weapons and ammunition from extremists in two areas of Kabul.

The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that extremists who belong to Gulbuddin's band had hidden a number of heavy weapons and ammunition in the fifth and sixth wards of Kabul. These weapons were discovered by security forces and two criminals were arrested.

The report adds that these weapons included 24 surface-to-surface missiles, together with 35 warheads; one Chinese recoilless gun; three rockets and their guidance unit; two Chinese Kalashnikovs; and 50 kg of explosives. With these weapons, the extremists intended to once again shell Kabul's residential areas.

Joint Space Flight Commission Holds Meeting

LD0108085988 Kabul BAKHTAR In English 0424 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, July 31, BAKHTAR—The session of the preparatory commission for the Afghan-Soviet joint space flight was held with the participation of Najibullah, president of Afghanistan here today.

The minister of communications and chairman of the commission Muhammad Aslam Watanjar delivered a report on space scientific researches to be carried out by the Afghan cosmonauts, the role of space flight on spotting the natural resources and growth of the Afghan national economy.

President Najibullah in his speech delivered at the session pinpointed the importance of the Afghan-Soviet joint space flight and gave necessary instructions to the ministries and state departments in this regard.

Bangladesh

UN Refugee Delegation Meets President Ershad

BK0208160088 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] The visiting delegation of the Geneva-based UN High Commission for Refugees, UNHCR, called on President Ershad at his secretariat this morning.

Led by the head of South Asia Division of the UNHCR, Mr Pankaj Kumar, the delegation discussed with the president issues relating to the repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh. Mr Kumar expressed keen interest of the UNHCR to assist Bangladesh for an early and smooth repatriation of these people.

He informed the president about the progress of skill [words indistinct] among the stranded Pakistanis which is being undertaken by the government in collaboration with the UNHCR.

President Ershad appreciated the good work done by the UNHCR world over and thanked it for the offer of assistance to Bangladesh with regard to the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis.

Briefs

Bridge Agreement With PRC

Bangladesh and China have signed an agreement for the survey and design of construction of Sambhuganj bridge over the old Brahmaputra River. The agreement was signed in Dhaka today by the chief engineer of Roads and Highways Department and the economic counselor of the Chinese Embassy on behalf of their respective governments. The proposed bridge will be constructed on the Brahmaputra River near Mymensingh town. It will be 400-meters long and over 14-meters wide with 1.8 meter footpath on each side. On completion the bridge will facilitate quick and easier transportation between Mymensingh and the new districts of Netrakona and Kishoreganj. [Text] [*BK3007135588 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Jul 88*]

India

Further on Pakistani Role in Plot To Kill Gandhi

BK0208160988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Parliament has been told that the threats to the life of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, as reported in a national daily today are a part of a larger conspiracy with international ramifications to destabilize India in which Pakistan is playing the most prominent role.

A statement to this effect was made in both houses of Parliament today. The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, made the statement in the Rajya Sabha, while another minister of state for home, Mr Santosh Mohan Dev, made a similar one in the Lok Sabha.

Both were made in response to the concern expressed by members in both houses of Parliament today. Members were informed that the threat to the security of the prime minister and other dignitaries was indeed grave. The government is determined not allow terrorists to succeed in such nefarious designs.

The terrorists plan to kill the prime minister and the home minister was unearthed after the operation Black Thunder [implemented last May to flush out terrorists from Golden Temple] in the Golden Temple complex. The documents seized revealed plans to create large-scale disturbances and cause a break down of the law and order in the country.

They conclusively proved continued Pakistani help to terrorists as part of widespread international conspiracy to destabilize India. Six documents recovered from the Golden Temple complex were tabled.

Giving details of the plot, the ministers assured both houses of Parliament that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure the safety of the prime minister and other high dignitaries. The recovered documents revealed that terrorist leaders operating from Pakistan have been sending instruction to terrorists and master-minding their activities in Punjab.

The documents include a letter dated 3 May this year in which there is a clear indication of a plot to assassinate the prime minister and the home minister.

The statement further added that Pakistan also exerted pressure on terrorist groups to forge unity, even threatening to cut off supply of arms and ammunition if they did not do so. The Pakistan authorities also laid stressed on increasing the frequency of strikes against the police and the security forces.

Operation Black Thunder gave a severe jolt to the nucleus of terrorist activities in Pakistan. The government has also information of consultations between representatives of Pakistani intelligence and of terrorist organizations to evolve a strategy to recover from this setback. Mindless and indiscriminate killing of innocent people is a part of the strategy.

'Tight Security' To Continue

BK0308090588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, declared in the Rajya Sabha today that the government will continue to take tight security measures to ensure protection to the prime minister and other high dignitaries.

He was replying to the queries raised by members on a statement made by him in the House yesterday regarding terrorist threat to the prime minister. He said Mr Rajiv Gandhi is a specific target of the terrorists as he occupies the high office of the prime minister.

Referring to Pakistan's involvement, the minister said Islamabad is following a suicidal policy and warned that it should refrain from doing so. Cutting across party lines, members urged the government to provide best possible security to the prime minister and other high dignitaries.

Seeking clarifications on the statement made by the minister of state for home regarding terrorist threat to the prime minister and the home minister, members wanted the government to make it clear to Pakistan the consequences it has to face if it continues to support the terrorist activities in Punjab.

While some ruling party members appealed to all the political parties to share a common platform in fighting terrorism, some opposition members criticized the minister's statement, saying that it contained elements of propaganda bias.

Death Sentences for Indira's Assassins Upheld

BK0308075288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] The Supreme Court has upheld the death sentence of Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh in the Indira Gandhi assassination case. The court has set aside the sentence against Balbir Singh as the charges of conspiracy against him were not proved.

Mr Justice G.L. Oza, Mr Justice B.C. Ray, and Mr Justice K.J. Shetty delivered the historic judgment in a packed courtroom in New Delhi today. The judges read out the operative parts of their individual but unanimous verdict.

Charge of Malfeasance in Japan Oil Deal Denied

BK0208164988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] In the Lok Sabha, the minister of state of finance, Mr B.K. Ghadvi, refuted the opposition allegation that there is a nexus among Messrs Jyotsna Holding, a Rajya Sabha member, and the highest leader of this country [Rajiv Gandhi] with regard to alleged payment of commission in the ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] contract.

Intervening in the special discussion on the controversy, he said the allegation is politically motivated, unfounded, and concocted. Rebutting the opposition charge that Jyotsna Holding was a conduit of the Messrs Sumitomo Corporation of Japan, he said out of the 6.5 crore rupees that the Indian firm is stated to have received, more than 3 crores were paid as income tax.

The remaining 2 crore 74 lakh rupees have been invested by the firm in a sister concern. The minister said if Jyotsna Holding was really a conduit, the money would have surely gone elsewhere. Mr Ghadvi made it clear that the government holds no brief either for Jyotsna Holding or Sumitomo or for any individual.

He said inquiries have been instituted and investigations are on to find out whether there is any FERA [Foreign Exchange Regulation Act] by Jyotsna Holding and whether Sumitomo Corporation has made a breach of contract in the ONGC deal.

Mr Ghadvi pointed out that proceedings against the Indian firm for delayed payment of income tax are pending and it would have to pay the penalty as applicable. He said neither the government, nor the ONGC, or the Gas Authority of India was aware that Jyotsana Holding was appointed consultants by the Japanese corporation. They also never consulted this Indian company for anything.

Even Sumitomo Corporation has never said that Jyotsna Holding was the agent or consultant. The government came to know about the payments only after the Indian firm filed its revised income tax returns in July last year. Mr Ghadvi told the house that the government is also inquiring from the Sumitomo about this deal. He made it clear that the deal was between two private concerns and the government had nothing to do with it.

Taking part in the discussions initiated by Mr Jaipal Reddy, Janata, the ruling party members accused the opposition of being obsessed with foreign connections and links. They said their single-point program seems to be vilification of the prime minister, his close associates, and the government with the only intention of tarnishing their image.

Finance Minister Rejects Probe

BK0308092088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] The finance minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, today rejected the opposition demand for a parliamentary committee to probe into the payment of commission to Jyotsna Holding by a Japanese firm in connection with the ONGC contract. Replying to the special discussion

in the Lok Sabha, he also denied that undue haste was shown by income tax authorities in completing the assessment of the income of the firm as alleged by the opposition members.

However, inquiries are going on to find out whether there was a violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. The minister assured the house that appropriate action will be taken if there is any violation.

In a step-by-step explanation of the entire matter, Mr Chavan said that the Japanese Sumitomo Corporation had not informed the Government of India despite stipulations in the contract that they would be engaging an agent and payment will be made for consultancy services. Nor did it indicate what services the Jyotsna Holding Company rendered to the Japanese firm.

The government will take up the matter with the Japanese firm for clarification in this regard. Any action, Mr Chavan pointed out, is called for only if the government is satisfied that the Japanese company has actually violated the provisions of the contract.

The fact of the payment of 6.5 crore rupees made to the Jyotsna Company for consultancy services came to light only when the company filed a revised return of income.

A part of the amount has been paid as tax, and nearly 3 crore rupees has been invested by the company in India. Therefore, the minister said, there was no question of diversion of funds to some other hands.

Violent Incidents in Punjab State Continue

'Terrorist' Commits Suicide

BK0208161288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, a hardcore terrorist Gurmeet Singh alias Mita committed suicide when chased by a police patrol party in Sangrur District this afternoon. The director general of the state police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, told our Chandigarh correspondent that Mita was responsible for gunning down of the head granthi [priest] of the Golden Temple, Giani Sohan Singh, and the SGPC secretary general, Mr Bhan Singh, in Ludhiana last month. He was also responsible for the killing of veteran Congress-I leader, Mr Trilochan Singh Riasati.

Elsewhere in the state, terrorists shot down two persons and ambushed a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] patrol party while 17 terrorists were arrested since last night. Huge quantities of arms and ammunition have been seized from the arrested terrorists.

Strike Plan Foiled

BK0308031788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, security forces foiled a major attempt by terrorists to strike simultaneously at Faridkot and Ferozepore towns. The security forces raided a terrorist hideout and an abandoned dera [hostel] at Golewala Village near Faridkot last evening. On seeing them, the terrorists fled away leaving behind a huge quantity of arms and ammunition.

Elsewhere in the state the terrorists shot dead five persons, including two women, last night.

Commentary on Role of Troops in Sri Lanka

BK0208113388 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 2 Aug 88

[S. Sudershnam commentary]

[Text] By today the India-Sri Lanka agreement is more than one year old. Immediately after signing the agreement, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had addressed a public meeting at Madras on 2d August last year where he declared that the agreement would usher in peace and tranquillity, secure justice for the Tamil minority, and will provide autonomy to the Sri Lankan Tamils.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the agreement, apart from safeguarding the Tamil identity, their language, and culture, would ensure the Sri Lankan Tamils all political and civic rights on a footing of equality with all other Sri Lankans.

Prior to that, India had held extensive consultations with the militants and other moderate Tamil groups and they had all agreed to the settlement and the agreement that India had signed. The agreement secured everything that the Sri Lankan Tamils had demanded, short of breaking Sri Lanka's unity.

Having met every reasonable demand, it was expected that violence would stop. India wanted national reconciliation and national building to begin in the Sri Lankan Tamil areas and warned that there should be no sympathy for any one who acted against the agreement.

There were some militants who were a little apprehensive and worried about their personal security and how they would fit into future picture in Sri Lanka. But they were assured that these aspects were covered effectively in the agreement and that their safety and their involvement in this rebuilding process would be taken care of.

In accordance with the agreement and at the formal request of Sri Lanka, the Peacekeeping Force was sent to Jaffna to help maintain peace and to give any other assistance. Sri Lanka also gave India credible assurances that Colombo will not take advantage of the disarming of the militants.

But the LTTE went back from their commitment and the IPKF had to disarm the LTTE activists. When the disarming process began, India sincerely called upon the LTTE to give up violence and accept the accord. This fell into deaf ears. India is still continuing its disarming operations and hopes that the LTTE will realize that violence can never be the means to find an amicable solution.

While the process of disarming the militants continues to ensure peace, the PKF carried out several rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in the Jaffna Peninsula and elsewhere.

These included restoration of electricity and water supply in the peninsula; restoration of railway line between Jaffna and Colombo; repair of telegraph lines, road links and airfields; reconstruction of public buildings, educational institutions and temples; and extending medical facilities.

The road between Palaly and Kankensanturai, Jaffna and Manadaitivu repaired recently have helped the trading activities to resume. Now the vehicles carrying goods, buses full of passengers and students on cycles are seen on these roads.

The roads were damaged during ethnic riots and also by torrential rains. The Kankesanturai jetty is full of loading and unloading activities now. The entire road leading to the jetty was repaired by the PKF. Two cement factories have also resumed production.

Since February the factories had to be locked up when the top executive of the factory fell a victim to the militant bullets during ethnic riots. The PKF took up the matter with the management and ensured safety, and assured to create conditions for the smooth functioning of the factories.

Nearly 2,000 employees are now working in these two factories which provide indirect job opportunities to many. Three daily newspapers of Jaffna have resumed publication. They are (NAMB NADU), (MURUTHULI), and (UDDAYAN). The managements were helped to restart the publications.

Several measures have been taken by the PKF to restore normalcy in the entire Jaffna Peninsula. Schools and colleges are functioning normally. Fishing activities are on. Agricultural activities are continuing, and trading in the field of palm, banana, fibre, and tobacco has picked up.

Some of the religious festivals which could not be celebrated for the last 3 years are all being held now, thanks to conducive and peaceful atmosphere. The people now realize that peace has come to stay in the peninsula due to the untiring and continued efforts of the PKF.

The Sri Lankan Tamils want peace. They do not want violence again. They realize rifle can never lead to any solution. These Tamilians [as heard] advise all those who believe in violence to surrender their arms and follow the path of democracy.

India wishes that the voice of these people is heard by those who still believe in violence. India has appealed to the militants to surrender arms, accept the India-Sri Lankan agreement, and give up violence and join the democratic political mainstream.

After the recent announcement in Colombo by President Jayewardene that Northern and Eastern Provinces will be merged, elections will take place in both the provinces and that amnesty will be granted to militants if they surrender arms, there seems to be no reason and no place for the conflict to continue.

Iran

Khamene'i Speech in Ahvaz on Peace Prospects

LD0208151088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Speech by President 'Ali Khamene'i in Ahvaz on 2 August on the occasion of 'Eid-e Ghadir—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Today is one of the historic and unforgettable days of our revolution. It is a day to respond positively to the imam and renew allegiance to him. First of all, I consider it necessary to express my thanks to the distinguished scholar and jurisprudent, his eminence Grand Ayatollah Montazeri [crowd chants "God is great"] for declaring this day and this march an opportunity for our nation to demonstrate to the world its presence in the arena and its enthusiastic sentiments.

Today the world's gaze is focused on Iran. Our enemy's propaganda has alleged that after the passage of some 10 years since the Islamic Revolution, our nation's enthusiasm and excitement had subsided. After the imam's inspiring message reached the ears and hearts of the people and a nationwide rush to the fronts began, it was necessary to manifest these pure and enthusiastic sentiments across the cities and throughout the country. The march today has achieved that end.

Today is 'Eid-e Ghadir and the day of the jurisconsult and the imamate. It is also a day to renew allegiance to the imam of the ummah. I would like to use this extremely important opportunity to say a few words to

you, the enthusiastic and courageous citizens of Khuzestan, about the current situation and the issues in the world arena regarding our revolution, our country, and our nation.

The present issue is one of extreme sensitivity and importance. The Iraqi regime's attitude during the past 2 weeks, its obstructionist behavior regarding the implementation of Resolution No 598, and its excuses have cast doubts on the prospect of achieving peace and implementing Resolution No 598.

The regime that 1 year ago, from the first day Resolution No 598 was ratified, adopted as its slogan that it accepts the resolution and supports an unconditional cease-fire, is today advancing one excuse after another in its relations with the UN secretary general and the Security Council, creating obstacles to ending the war.

There were some people in the world who did not believe it, and those who did believe it did not want to say so. We say that by nature the Iraqi regime is a warmonger and is bent on fanning the flames of fire and making trouble. We know them; we know them from experience. The world was unwilling to accept our opinion.

It has now been proven to the world. Many world figures and governments today criticize Iraq, and from a diplomatic standpoint, Iraq's position is extremely weak. In contrast, we are in a position of strength.

In light of this situation I view the prospects of achieving peace and an end to the war in the context of Resolution No 598 as extremely doubtful and suspect. The probability exists that with its ugly behavior Iraq will prevent this from materializing.

However, even if through this process the war is not nearing its end, one can see from the totality of evidence—the great presence of the Hezbollah ummah, the firmness of our fighting forces, and the unprecedented enthusiasm and excitement that prevails througout our country today—that our nation's revolutionary and military power will eventually force the Iraqi regime to surrender to the facts of life.

On that basis I would like to discuss something briefly with you, the enthusiastic and warrior citizens of Ahvaz and its suburbs. This is in fact addressed to the entire Iranian nation. The end of the war and the approach to the end of the war is one of the most difficult stages of any war.

It is just like the start of a war when there is need for initiative, strong action, alertness, and control over developments. There have been many nations who, as their border hostilities wind down, have committed major mistakes because they have shown weakness and lack of appreciation of the situation, mistakes that weakened and degraded those nations for years to come.

In the concluding stages of a war everyone must be more alert than ever before, both the nation and the officials. Everyone must take care that after 8 years of sacrifices on the part of the Iranian nation there should be not the slightest mistake in their approach to the issue of Resolution No 598 and the consequent negotiations on it.

For this reason I will mention and identify a number of things that must be made clear and on which the Iranian nation and the country's officials must make a decision.

The first thing is this: Now that that war is apparently winding down according to the views of the UN secretary general, who has proposed a scheduled plan to implement Resolution No 598, which as a package is an acceptable plan to us, the Iranian nation must demonstrate to its mischief- making neighbor that it is strong from the military standpoint.

This is the first and most important matter. This enemy has proved that it understands nothing except the language of force and strength. The armed forces, the volunteer fighters, and everyone in the country must demonstrate that the revolution, through its armed and military forces, is always able to defend its borders. [Khamene'i asks audience to stop chanting]

At this stage our nation must demonstrate it possesses military might and can defend its borders. Unless we do this, the enemy will remain a constant threat right on our doorstep. If he believes that there is no iron barrier made up of the nation's forces facing him, the danger of a new attack or a new war will always exist.

For this reason our nation and our officials must, first and foremost, give top priority to strengthening the Armed Forces and to demonstrating the combat capabability of the Islamic Republic.

On the basis of this, I advise the young, the fighters, you who have rushed to the fronts with enthusiasm and motivation to affirm the military strength of the Islamic Republic and demonstrate your strength and power. You should not think that the matter is over; you should not think that the danger has passed; you should not feel that your responsibilities have been lifted.

No, the danger is there and therefore the responsibilities remain. You must show your strong and powerful presence. The enemy is mistaken if it imagines that the Iranian nation is weak and that it can, as it did 8 years ago, come to within 10 km of Ahvaz and and set up camp there. Those days are over.

I was here in this same city of Ahvaz, in 1981 for several months; I was here in the Center for Irregular Warfare. During many of those days full of weariness and sorrow and those dark, bleak nights, no one was in the city.

Today, the city of Ahvaz and the province of Khuzestan are the manifestations of the epic and incarnation of the resistance of all the people of Iran. Fighters have gathered from all over the country in this province and in other provinces that are theaters of war and have concentrated here.

Global arrogance is greatly mistaken if it thinks Iran cannot defend its revolution and its borders. This is the mistake that global arrogance and Iraq have made. You should continue to preserave the revolution and its borders through your strong presence. The armed forces should strengthen all the more their organizational capability.

The Army and the IRGC should organize themselves all the more strongly and as solidly as possible by utilizing the great human resources that exist. In this way they will fulfull the needs of the Iranian nation all the better and the need to defend the revolution.

There is something I should tell you and the people of Iran right here: The war administration machine cannot tolerate the fact that while tens of thousands of devoted and eager forces from every part of the country volunteer to serve on the fronts, there are others still who have not yet served their obligatory term of service at the designated time and have been absent from this great epic of the homeland.

This is not acceptable. People's young children, those who have served their national service, those who have taken part several times in the theaters of war, those whose are actually too old for national service—even old men—volunteer and participate in serving on the fronts.

However, there are some insensitive young people who, lacking in Islamic and revolutionary zeal, dodge and run away from national service just when they are called to cover themselves with the sacred uniform of the soldier and place themselves under the flag.

This is unacceptable. This is a great disgrace for them and for their families, that a young person should not serve the obligatory term alloted him.

I request the officials in charge of war and the esteemed acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, my very dear brother Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to seriously pursue the cases of those who have deserted and those who have not done their obligatory term of service with intensity and decisiveness. [passage omitted]

Those who have resorted to such base and abject behavior should be prosecuted and severely punished, unless they come forward themselves and repent and wear this sacred uniform.

Thus, the armed forces should maintain themselves in a state of readiness with full steadfastness and strong organization. It is possible that the implementation of this resolution may take up to a year. Perhaps the aggressor Iraqi regime, just as it has done up to now, may create obstacles.

We should be alert and watchful in these sensitive moments of the war when the world wants to declare the war is ending. We should not be in any way negligent or weak, nor make any mistakes. This is one point.

Another point is addressed to the United Nations and international observers: We accepted Resolution No 598. We had certain reasons and interests for doing this. The imam of the ummah made this decision because of his strong nerve and power of initiative.

Moreover, the nation also demonstrated its allegience to the imam through this great move. Well, the people of Iran accepted Resolution No 598 at a crucial juncture. However, if anyone in the world thinks that this springs from weakness on the part of the Islamic Republic, they are wrong.

Neither our enemy and the aggressor regime nor those who supported him should entertain this thought. I declare here: We shall not accept any preconditions from Iraq for the implementation of Resolution No 598 and a cease-fire on the fronts.

That Iraq should say that certain conditions be attached to the cease-fire, such as direct negotiations or any other condition, is not at all acceptable to us. If there are any preconditions set down by them for the cease-fire and the implementation of Resolution No 598, then we also have preconditions.

If Iraq sets down preconditions, we too shall set down a condition and our condition will be one we have mentioned in the past: the punishment of the aggressor. If the enemy comes and attaches a condition to Resolution No 598 then we shall also make it a condition that we accept Resolution No 598 if the aggressor is punished. If there are to be preconditions, then this is ours. [crowd chants]

Another point is that if there is going to be a cease-fire, it should be accompanied by the speedy withdrawal of forces to international boundaries. If the Iraqi regime imagines that after the cease-fire it will be given the opportunity to remain on sacred Islamic land and continue its aggression, it is greatly mistaken.

We will never accept this. Of course, the secretary general has presented a phased plan, which as I said earlier is an acceptable plan. Of course, we have not yet officially said anything, but on the whole it is a plan which can be considered and accepted by us. We strongly emphasize that not an inch of Iranian soil can remain under the boots of the Iraqi aggressors.

The next point concerns defining the boundaries. Resolution No 598 declares that there should be a return to recognized borders. Everybody should know this, the Security Council, the powers supporting Saddam, and the aggressive Iraqi regime should also know that in defining the boundaries we will not accept the slightest bullying and imposition.

The aim of the Iranian nation should be fully satisfied and, thanks be to God, in the political arena we hold the edge. We have limitless power in the military arena. The enemy is is vulnerable and defeatable. There will be no room for any bullying and imposition, and our nation would under no circumstances accept it.

These are the remarks which I believe should be addressed to the sides and international elements who are watching Iranian issues. These are the most important points.

However, I have a few things to say to you, the beloved ones, to you the vigilant, ever-present nation. Dear brothers and sisters, every revolutionary experience is a valuable experience, and this latest experience is among the most precious.

The newest experience is that when the the revolution is threatened—from whatever source that danger may come—the people will leave whatever they are doing, their occupations, and will defend the nation, the homeland, and the revolution. This is another great historical experience for the Iranian nation.

Recent experience shows that even after 10 years, the revolution has not experienced the slightest weakness and laxity. Recent experience shows that the revolution has not deviated from its path. A revolution which deviates from its path will be forced to surrender and will be vulnerable.

This revolution is moving along the straight path of Islam and revolutionary aspirations. Whenever it senses danger, it is capable of a mass mobilization of its people. Recent experience shows that the agents and lackeys of world arrogance are absolutely incapable of separating this nation from its revolutionary leadership, and that they are too weak to accomplish such a thing. The people have demonstrated that at all times they will support their beloved, illustrious, and wise imam.

This experience also demonstrates the importance of unity and solidarity by the forces, and the unity and solidarity of all [words indistinct] proved to the enemy that the enemy is defeated. As soon as the message of the imam was issued, the enemy realized this fact, and this happened before the people had come and taken up arms. Our global enemies take account of these facts.

We have a long and difficult path ahead of us. If the war continues, our valiant defense will make the enemy regret its aggression. If the war comes to an end at this juncture, all the forces should hold each other's hands and should lead the country in the direction of constructive revolutionary aspirations. Whatever the case, our great nation's unified expression is an absolute necessity and an urgent requirement for the revolution.

The youths should keep themselves ready for all eventualities, even if the war ends, Resolution No 598 implemented, and a cease-fire declared. Even under these conditions, the safeguarding of the peace requires the nation's great strength and its combat readiness.

A peace which is not supported by a defensive force would be a very shaky peace. All strata of the nation—men, women, town dwellers, villagers, and other various groups—should maintain their vigilance at this very important and sensitive juncture.

Rumormongering is one of the greatest enemy tricks. The people should not listen to rumors. They should listen to and see what the leader of the revolution and the concerned officials of the country tell them, and they should regard that as the proper and right path for continuing the the revolution. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Addresses Troops at Front 1 Aug

LD0208143688 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—The Iranian nation under the present conditions, has started an all-out devotion to spread and establish Islam's sovereignty and "this will be registered in the history forever," President 'Ali Khamene'i said Monday.

Speaking to a group of Iranian forces in a war front, the president said despite all sophisticated weapons and advanced technologies employed by the global arrogance against the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian nation as part of the Islamic community relied on its faith and unity and could remain in the world political arena contrary to the wish of the enemies.

Massive presence of the Muslim combatants throughout the western and southern war theaters proved that the Iranian nation has still kept its revolutionary power, President Khamene'i said.

The head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) added that the Iraqi regime had wrongly imagined that the iron will of the Iranian nation had weakened, "but the Islamic Revolution in its 10th anniversary succeeded in giving an appropriate response not only to the aggressions of the Iraqi regime but to those of global arrogance as well."

The Islamic Revolution by staging magnificent maneuvers has proved to the world that it is invincible, he said, adding that a revolution is defeated which has lost the

power of mobilization. But Iran's volunteer forces are joining the war fronts en masse to prove the strength of the Islamic Revolution and its power of mobilization, he said.

Elsewhere the president said the United Nations Resolution 598 was used by the enemies of Islam as a weapon against the Islamic Revolution before Iran accepted it (July 18), and the U.S., the Soviet Union, the Iraqi regime and other opportunist regimes in the region condemned the Islamic Republic by this weapon.

But, he said, the leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni by accepting the resolution disarmed all the enemies and to the extent that it is now the Iraqi regime which is under international political pressures.

He said Iran is undoubtedly the winner party in the political scene and that in the military field too, Iraqi troops despite their futile attempts in some sectors, were tired and unwilling to continue the war.

Britain To Post 'First Secretary' to Tehran
LD0308060088 Tehran IRNA in English 0547 GMT 3 Aug 88

["U.K. Preparing Ground To Improve Ties With Iran"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Aug. 3, IRNA—The British Foreign Office confirmed Tuesday that the announcement of a first secretary being despatched to Iran can be imminently expected.

A ministry spokesman ruled out that it would be a charge d'affaires at this stage but could not see the current position left vacant by the removal of a third ranking visa officer last summer, being filled by a diplomat lower than first secretary.

The appointment is seen as temporary, but the spokesman told IRNA that it could lead to becoming permanent with consideration of any expansion in representation then following.

The Foreign Office confirmation followed talks with Iranian charge d'affaires in London, Medhi Akhondzadeh-Basti, on Monday after a two week visit to Tehran which said a "better atmosphere was developing" between the two countries.

Relations between Britain and Iran were soured last June following a dispute about the respective treatment of diplomats in each other's country and although Iran maintained its envoy in London, the U.K. shortly withdrew its last remaining diplomat.

The slow re-emergence of goodwill started with Britain's first condemnation of the Iraqi regime for using chemical weapons, the early release of an Iranian prisoner, London's willingness to resolve embassy reparation dating back to 1980 and the despatch of a parliamentary delegation to Tehran.

The London TIMES Monday described the moves as a "diplomatic dance" which entered its final stage last week with Prime Minister Thatcher's publicised acknowledgement that she personally preferred to have better relations with Iran.

Britain's moves for a reconciliation is seen by the press here linked with the government's hopes of using Iran's good offices in trying to influence the release of 3 Britons held in Beirut but is not seen by the Foreign Office as an obstacle to improve ties.

More fundamentally Iran is understood to be still looking for a more clear departure from Britain's previous animosity, in its allegations that Tehran in some way sponsors international terrorism and its ambiguous position on the Iraqi war.

The Foreign Office was not sure if the government would be making any comment about the latest U.N. report on Iraq's increasing use of chemical weapons but suggested that something may be said in New York.

"Violations of chemical weapons and the use of chemical weapons are so beyond the pale as far as Western governments, and we in particular, are concerned," the spokesman said.

UN Secretary General To Announce Cease-Fire Soon
NC0308055588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Telephone report from London by unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Some 2 weeks after the start of the new round of UN efforts to implement Resolution No 598 and following Iraq's overt and disgraceful obstructionism in this regard, UN diplomatic sources disclosed last night that Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar intends to set a date for the commencement of the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598, possibly without holding further talks with Iraq and without (?considering Baghdad's point of view).

Emphasizing that the secretary general has the right to unilaterally declare a cease-fire, these sources added that the secretary general possibly may announce the cease-fire date either today or tomorrow. The same sources noted that immediately after his announcement, Perez de Cuellar will instruct the Security Council to the legal means at its disposal regarding the implementation and the observance of the cease-fire.

Javier Perez de Cuellar had announced yesterday he is awaiting the report of the UN technical-military delegation that went to Tehran and Baghdad this past week and is to return to New York today. The UN secretary general stated that he will announce the date of the cease-fire after he receives this report.

In a news conference with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday morning, our foreign minister, Dr Velayati, stated that as far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned, all the technical aspects related to the implementation of the cease-fire have been studied and an understanding and full agreement has (?almost) been achieved between Iran and the secretary general.

Velayati on Iraq's Situation After UN Statement
NC0308081088 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Velayati, currently in New York, by unidentified correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in studio—live or recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Greetings, Mr Velayati.

[Velayati] Greetings.

[Correspondent] I hope you are feeling well.

[Velayati] Thank you, very much.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, in view of the fact that the Security Council issued a statement yesterday on Iraq's use of chemical weapons and that Iraq was condemned in Mr Perez de Cuellar's prologue to the statement, how does Your Excellency assess the Security Council statement and Mr Perez de Cuellar's position?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. Greetings, dear viewers. The Security Council statement was based on a report prepared by the delegation which the secretary general had sent [destination not specified].

This statement was quite overwhelming and, thanks to the studies carried out by this group, it actually proved the real situation, or a part of it, that the Islamic Republic of Iran has continually stated regarding the Iraqi regime's crimes.

This is significant because the report appeared after the approval of UN Security Council Resolution No 612, which in no uncertain terms banned the use of chemical weapons. The report actually places Iraq, with its continued use of chemical weapons, face to face with the Security Council.

During a meeting with the new chairman of the Security Council, the Chinese ambassador to the United Nations, I pointed out that the Security Council should fulfill its duty. I said that the UN delegation proved, albeit after its sixth visit, in its report that Iraq has used this weapon and that this actually has placed Iraq face to face with the Security Council, that is, world public opinion.

I told him that consequently the following minimum steps as detailed in the UN Charter should be taken; namely, the imposition of a ban on exporting materials used in any way in the manufacture of chemical weapons, and the inclusion of this issue on the Security Council agenda.

As I already mentioned, the report was quite overwhelming. The UN secretary general's position was extremely good and very timely. The remarks by diplomats at the United Nations and the reaction of the world mass media make us believe that the publication of this report has, more than ever before, put Iraq under international political pressure and has further isolated this regime which, by propounding the precondition of direct talks, was already feeling the pressure of public opinion.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, Mr Velayati, for talking to us.

[Velayati] You are welcome.

Mahallati Comments on UN Toxic Gas Report
LD0308085988 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] New York, Aug. 3 IRNA—Iran's UN Ambassador Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati said here Monday that the UN report on Iraqi use of chemical weapons is another reason why the Security Council should stop bloodshed and prevent Iraq's sabotaging of Resolution 598.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA he said that the UN Security [as received] General Javier Perez de Cuellar in an introduction to the report has expressed concern about Iraq's continued use of chemical weapons. This, he said, reaffirms Iran's repeated assertions that failure of the international community to take a punitive action against users of chemical weapons will encourage their continued deployment of such weapons.

More on Iraq's continued use of chemicals he said since a UN fact-finding team visited the chemically-affected areas in Iran and pursuant to its filing of a report of its findings Iraq has deployed chemical weapons on three additional occasions. Therefore, he added, a far stronger measure than the mere publishing of reports by the international community is needed for stopping the Baghdad regime from such practices.

Mahallati said the Security Council should be encouraged to take concerted measures for stopping the bloodshed and thwart Iraq's efforts for undermining the initiatives of the U.N. secretary general.

Velayati Briefs Japanese, Soviet UN Envoys

LD0308105888 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] New York, Aug. 3, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here for talks on UN Resolution 598 met and talked with Japanese ambassador to UN Kiyoaki Kikuchi Tuesday. The Japanese envoy hailed Iran's efforts for establishment of a lasting peace at the Persian Gulf.

Velayati briefed Kikuchi on Iraqi regime's hindering of the implementation of the resolution. Iran-Japan relations and their cooperation in joint ventures were also discussed in the meeting.

In another meeting with USSR envoy to the UN, Aleksandr Belonogov, on Tuesday the Soviet diplomat said that at present proper conditions have been created for ending the Iraq-Iran war.

Velayati briefed the Soviet official on Iran's cooperation with the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, and on obstacles created on the way of the resolution.

Belonogov said that his country is working for ending the war within the framework of the resolution and said that permanent Security Council members were backing Perez de Cuellar in his efforts.

Larijani Heads Delegation to Moscow

LD0308110488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Mr Larijani, deputy foreign minister in charge of U.S. and European affairs, today arrived in Moscow at the head of a political delegation. According to the Central News Unit, Mr Larijani has gone to Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet deputy foreign minister.

During this visit he will discuss bilateral and regional isues with Soviet officials.

Reportage on Visit of Italian Trade Minister

Arrives in Tehran 2 Aug

LD0208182688 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—Italy's Foreign Trade Minister Renato Ruggiero heading a high-ranking delegation arrived here to take part in a session of Iran-Italy joint economic commission.

During his two day stay here, Ruggiero will discuss with Iranian officials, mutual economic issues and ways to expand them.

This is the first visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran of an Italian minister.

In addition to Italian economic and political officials, there are a number of managers from Italy's important industries and firms accompanying the delegation.

Italian economic sources say a major goal of the visit is to discuss an Iran-Italy financial dispute over a project to construct Bandar-e 'Abbas jetty in southern Iran, according to an IRNA despatch from Rome.

It said the formation of a joint economic commission between the two countries has been under consideration since a few years ago when the then Italian Foreign Trade Minister Salvatore Formica was due to visit Iran in 1985 which was postponed for some reasons until today. Formica however visited Baghdad the same year.

Meanwhile, upon the Italian Cabinet's approval, the joint Rome-Baghdad commission was due to be held in the Italian capital last week to investigate the confiscation of the Iraqi Navy's gunboats in Italian waters, but it was postponed due to the visit to New York of the Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz for negotiations on the Iraq-Iran war.

Ruggiero, 50, is one of the important members of the Socialist Party. He held the post of secretary general at the Italian Foreign Ministry for years.

The Socialist Party has friendly relations with Baghdad and the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation (MKO) so that instead of Iran's official representatives, MKO members are usually invited to attend the party's meetings.

The Italian minister was welcomed at Tehran's airport by Iranian Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi.

Upon his arrival, Ruggiero told reporters that his visit was very important. "We had been waiting for years to come here for improvement of economic ties," he said.

He added that with the end of the Iraq-Iran war the prospect for expansion of economic ties between Tehran and Rome was bright. He said some old projects will also be discussed between the two sides.

The first session of the joint commission is to be held Wednesday morning.

Ayatollahi also spoke to reporters and said the joint discussions will cover some important projects like Mobarakeh [name as received] steel complex (near Esfahan) as well as some power stations.

The Italian delegation is also to meet Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh.

Some 25 Italian television reporters are accompanying the delegation.

ANSA on Aims of Visit

AU0308084588 Rome ANSA in English 0805 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] (ANSA)—Italian Foreign Trade Minister Renato Ruggiero arrived in Tehran Tuesday to attend the two-day meeting of the first Italian-Iranian joint commission meeting since the fall of the shah in 1979.

The joint commission, under study since 1985 and postponed several times, marks an improvement in relations between the two countries, which have been at odds over debts owed to Italy totalling about one billion dollars.

One of the major objectives of Ruggiero's visit is to reach an agreement over the credits claimed by Italy for the construction carried out in the port of Bandar-e 'Abbas in southern Iran, the Iranian news agency, IRNA, reports.

Italy also intends to reaffirm its equidistance from both Iran and Iraq in their conflict, Italian Government sources said.

Ruggiero is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and parliamentary speaker and head of the armed forces 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

First Round of Talks

LD0308124488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] The first session of the Iranian-Italian joint economic commission, supervised by the Iranian minister for mines and metals and the Italian foreign trade minister, took place this morning in Tehran.

The Central News Unit reports that following these talks the economic delegations of Iran and Italy set up a trade, industries, and transport committee to examine opportunities for expanding cooperation in these spheres.

In the first round of talks, the Italian foreign trade minister referred to the already established economic and trade relations between the two countries, and said: Italy is the second biggest customer of Iranian oil and ranks fourth of exporters of industrial and agricultural products to Iran.

Italian companies are cooperating in the implementation of the $2.4-billion Mobarakeh steel complex project. Thirty-three Italian firms are cooperating with 400 Iranian firms implementing some joint investment projects in Iran.

During these talks he expressed Italy's readiness to expand relations between the two countries in the training of energy experts, partnership in reconstruction projects, and completion of industrial projects.

Further on Jannati Address to Tehran Rally

LD0208163388 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—Iranian people's presence in the grand rally of "allegiance to Imam Khomeyni" was the best maneuver for the Islamic Republic, said Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, a jurisprudent member of the Council of Guardians here Tuesday.

Addressing the huge Tehran rally at Azadi Square, Ayatollah Jannati said the people of Iran obey Imam Khomeyni's orders and know that the acceptance of the Resolution 598 was neither out of weakness nor because of big powers' pressures on the Islamic Republic.

Despite its acceptance, he said, the imam still continued to lash out at the U.S. and the Soviet Union and warned against continued U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf.

Today's grand rally was proposed by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri to reaffirm allegiance to Imam Khomeni. The rally coincides with 'Id al-Ghadir, the day prophet Muhammad (SAW) chose Imam 'Ali (AS) as his successor.

"Our enemies attempted to portray Iran's acceptance of the resolution as a weak point and thus pressurize the Iranian nation," the ayatollah said, but on the contrary, he added, the unprecedented presence of the people both in the war fronts and in today's nationwide rallies proved that they are much more powerful than before.

Iran's acceptance of the Resolution 598 astonished the superpowers, he said adding that they wanted to make many deals to end the war. "But Imam Khomeni foiled their schemes by taking this stance for the cause of God and in the interest of the people."

One of their (the enemies) plans, he noted, was to be carried out by the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq (MKO) members. They (the MKO) had planned to enter the capital (Tehran) after occupying Iranian cities during their invasion of the country. They had even planned to take over some sensitive points in Tehran, he disclosed.

Ayatollah Jannati regretted that international circles which until yesterday pressured Iran to accept peace with Iraq and portrayed Tehran as a war-monger, were all silent now.

He said if they were really honest they should have welcomed Iran's decision and put the Iraqi regime under pressure. "But they only watched Iraq's (renewed) aggression against our Islamic homeland," he said.

Ayatollah Jannati who is also head of the Islamic Propagation Organisation called on Iranian officials to endeavour to carry out the imam's recent message.

Referring to the crimes so far perpetrated by the MKO against the Islamic Republic, he urged the imam to issue orders to bring them to justice.

Ayatollah Jannati furthermore said "acceptance of the (U.N.) resolution does not mean we lose our combat readiness." On the contrary, he stressed, Muslims should enhance their military strength during peace time so that enemies would not even think of invading Islamic lands.

Adverting to the people's presence from all walks of life in the battlefronts, he said "This is Islam's power and the people are ready for martyrdom."

Civil Aviation Group Arrives in Bandar-e 'Abbas

NC0308060788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] A five-man delegation from the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO] arrived in Bandar-e 'Abbas last night to investigate and study the U.S. warship's missile attack against Iran's passenger Airbus.

The members of this delegation, who are accompanied by a number of officials, advisers, and experts of the Civil Aviation Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will complete their studies of the U.S. warship's missile attack against the passenger plane and also will supervise the activities of the group in charge of recovering victims' bodies and the plane's black box.

Volunteer Forces Continue To Depart for Fronts

Sistan va Baluchistan Convoy

LD0208125988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Coinciding with the blessed 'Eid-e Ghadir, the day of renewing allegiance to the imam of ummah, the third special convoy of the Mohammad Corps from Baluchestan va Sistan Province was dispatched to the fronts after carrying out their glorious demonstrations of allegiance to the imam of ummah.

The forces were made up of mobilization forces from Zabol, Zahedan, Iranshahr, Chah Bahar, Saravan, and Khash.

The Central News Unit reports from Shiraz that coinciding with the 'Eid-e Ghadir, hundreds of mobilization troops from Kazedrun, Marv Dasht, (Sa'adatshahr), and several areas of the provincial town of Larestan were dispatched to the warfronts.

Technical Expert Forces Depart

LD0308123188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Various groups of people are continuing to respond to the leader of the revolution and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces' call for an extensive presence at the battlefronts. A large number of volunteers and technical expert forces from various cities of the country today left for the fronts.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraq Bombs Northwestern Area

LD0208171688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] According to the General Command Headquarters the aggressor Iraqi regime, in continuation of its crimes, at about (?0205) today bombed parts of the Oshnoviyeh region in Azarbayjan Bakhtari Province. A number of our compatriots were injured and a number of houses were damaged.

Fighter-aircraft of the Iraqi regime this afternoon also intruded into the airspace of Ilam city, but encountered anti-air defense fire from the fighters of Islam and were forced to flee before carrying out any operations. Upon leaving the region they broke the sound barrier.

Over 1,000 Injured by Toxins

LD0308103488 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarabayjan Prov., Aug. 3, IRNA—At least 1,031 civilians were wounded as Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on eight locations at Sheykh Othman [placename as received] district in Oshnoviyeh early Tuesday.

Shortly after the attack anti-chemical substances were used to neutralize the effects of toxic gases. The majority of the wounded people were discharged from hospital after receiving treatment for minor injuries.

Planes Raid Industrial Sites

LD0308084188 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3 IRNA—Iraqi warplanes raided two industrial-labour units in two Iranian provinces, Bushehr in southern Iran and Khuzestan Province in western Iran Wednesday morning.

Damage was inflicted on the centers but there were no immediate reports on possible casualties.

Iraqi Plane Downed in Bushehr

LD0308100588 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—An Iraqi warplane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in Bushehr Province Wednesday morning. The plane was downed during an enemy air raid on a labor-industrial unit in the southern province of Bushehr.

Further on Gulf Air Patrols

LD0208173188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] According to the General Command Headquarters air patrols over the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman were effectively carried out yesterday by the Air Force in line with international norms in order to determine the positions of foreign naval vessels and to support operations of the Navy of the Islamic Republic.

Our aircraft, while receiving (?warnings) in two cases from foreign ships and adopting a decisive approach to the (?warnings), continued their missions and intercepted a total of 35 different naval vessels.

Yesterday, the operations of seven Iraqi naval craft in the vicinity of Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah and the Khawr 'Abdallah canal were identified by the naval vessels of the Navy of the Islamic Republic and were placed under observation.

During the past 24 hours, the fighters of the army of Islam in the northwestern operational sectors, and also in the western and southern operational sectors, continued to defend their defensive positions and, by dispatching various patrol units, controlled the movements of enemy forces by carrying out various types of defensive fire.

Sri Lanka

Surface-to-Air Missile Seized in Jaffna

BK0308033188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force [PKF] seized a surface-to-air missile launcher in Nallur in Jaffna Peninsula yesterday. This is the first time that the PKF has come across a surface-to-air missile in its operations in Sri Lanka. The PKF also apprehended two LTTE tax collectors from Kodikamam.

Three PKF soldiers were killed and four injured in an explosion set off by the LTTE in the Vavuniya sector. Five members of a Sinhalese family were killed by suspected LTTE militants at village Sagama in the eastern district of Amparai yesterday. A massive hunt by the PKF has been launched to track down the killers.

Foreign Agencies Blamed

BK0308093688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0938 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Colombo, Aug 3 (AFP)—India accused unidentified international agencies Wednesday of backing Tamil separatists in Sri Lanka and supplying them with a sophisticated surface-to-air (SAM) missile. The Indian High Commission (embassy) here made the allegation after crack commandos captured a SAM missile and launcher from Tamil guerrillas in the island's northern Jaffna Peninsula. Security sources said it was the first time such a missile had been found in the possession of the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"A SAM is not something you can buy off the shelf. Some motivated international agency must have supplied it," Indian High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. Mr. Dixit said a commando operation was launched to capture the weapon from an LTTE hideout at Nallur village in Jaffna. "This discovery shows that there are organisations, agencies or entities interested in sustaining this tragic and unnecessary conflict," he said. The make and type of the SAM missile was not immediately known. But Mr. Dixit said it could have brought down an aircraft and appeared to be new.

"We are very curious about the source of this armament," an Indian High Commission spokeswoman said. She said the discovery added a "new input in the situation of destabilisation of Sri Lanka."

Indian politicians have previously accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of trying to sabotage the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord which sought to end the island's Tamil separatist conflict. Some 49,000 Indian troops are deployed in Sri Lanka in line with the pact.

There was no immediate response from the Sri Lanka Government.

Security sources here said the capture of the missile signaled intensified search operations in the troubled Northern Province and could trigger a stepped-up Indian military offensive against the LTTE. "The Indians' advantage over the rebels is their aerial capability. If that is threatened, they will have to do something before the Tigers bring down their helicopters and transporter planes," a security source here said.

Helicopter gunships have been a favourite and effective weapon against LTTE guerrillas who have used landmines to slow troops on roads in the north. LTTE fighters have incapacitated many unarmed Indian helicopters with small arms. But they have been unsuccessful in bringing down any aircraft.

In other developments, the LTTE killed a secretary of a leading Tamil human rights activist in northern Batticaloa District Tuesday, residents said. Six men shot Murugesu Anandaraja, 41, the secretary of S.A.M. Thambimuttu, as Mr Anandaraja was attending his father's funeral, they said. Mr Thambimuttu himself escaped an LTTE assassination attempt in September. Residents said a faction of the LTTE opposed him because of his moderate views.

In northeastern Kantale town, LTTE men exploded a bomb inside a tea kiosk Wednesday killing one Sinhalese and seriously wounding six people, including three children and two women, a military spokesman here said. The LTTE has killed 23 civilians in separate incidents in Northern and Eastern Provinces during the past week, the spokesman said.

New Delhi launched a major offensive October 10 to disarm the LTTE after the group repudiated the peace accord. Since then more than 545 Indian soldiers and over 2,000 suspected Tamil rebels have died in bitter fighting.

7 Southern Terrorists Killed; Colombo Peaceful

BK3007140488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1155 GMT 30 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 30 (LANKAPUVATH)—Seven southern terrorists were killed by security forces when caught in acts of committing sabotage in the outstations.

The city of Colombo continues to be free of incidents.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that one saboteur was killed as the police opened fire when a gang was attempting to set fire to a Sri Lanka Transport Board [SLTB] bus at 0020 hours (local time) this morning, at Galagedera.

A beggar and a little child were injured when a terrorist, who got off a bus, flung a bomb which exploded at the Maliban junction in Galle Road, Ratmalana this morning.

Four civilians standing at a bus halt at Matugama were injured when subversives hurled a bomb at them.

They said that six terrorists were killed when making attempts at violence and sabotage, Thursday night and Friday. Three were killed at Matale and one each at Beliatte, Kurunegala and Hambantota.

A report from Kalutara states that terrorists set off an explosion damaging the rail track this morning while a report from Kadugannawa states that terrorists had damaged the rail track.

Security forces last evening defused a locally made bomb containing 5 kilograms of explosives which was found buried at the Kumarakanda junction at Hikkaduwa.

At a checkpoint in Beruwela, the forces found two bags containing 3 locally made battery-operated bombs, one locally made pistol with 2 rounds of ammunition and a bundle of DJV [Deshapremi Janatha Viyaparaya] and JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] leaflets in a SLTB [Sri Lanka Transportation Bureau] bus proceeding from Kalutara to Alutgama.

At Meetotamulla, security forces detected an S-Lon tube filled with explosives in the SLTB depot. The explosives device was defused by the bomb disposal squad.

A locally made bomb was found on Hospital Road Moratuwa. This was defused by security forces.

A petrol bomb was recovered by security forces at Thanamalvila in the island's Moneragala District, and at Bakamuna in the Pollonaruwa District a parcel bomb was detected and defused by security forces.

Road obstacles placed at Walagambahuwa, Galkulama, Thambuttegama-Rajanganaya Road, and at Kamburupitiya, Deniyaya, Kotapola, Matara, Dampella and Hiranthala in the Southern Province have been cleared by security forces.

Road obstacles at Aturugiriya and Uggalobodda in Kalutara North were also cleared by the forces.

At Usawawa in Anamaduwa in the Northwestern Province, police ambushed and fired at a gang of 15 terrorists who attempted to set fire to the agriculture service office.

A report from Udukumbura in Dedigama states that security forces thwarted attempts by terrorists to set fire to three vehicles. The terrorists fled on the arrival of services personnel.

A report from Nathtalampotha, Menikkinna, Kandy states that terrorists had thrown a bomb at a match box factory. No damage to person or property was reported.

Saboteurs caused serious damage to public property in the Ankumbura police area, in Kandy yesterday where they set fire to one electric transformer at Dolaphilla and another at Gallinna.

The Grammeya bank and the sub-post office at Gallinna were also set on fire by terrorists.

At Bengamuwa in the Urubokke police area, the grama sevaka's [village volunteers] office was damaged and documents set on fire.

An assistant government agent's (AGA's) office at Ridimaliyadda in Mhiyangana and the DDC [Deputy District Commissioner] office were set on fire. However, the fire was put out by security forces who rushed to the scene. Two clerks and a watcher are reported missing.

A report from Ampara states that 15 electric posts have been damaged. The report adds that the Pradeshiya Sabha [provincial council] and the forest department house had been burnt. At Gampola, an electricity transformer had been damaged.

At Eeriyagala a Hiace van returning from Kataragama with 18 passengers was forcibly brought to a halt by terrorists. After ordering the passengers out the vehicle was set on fire.

Terrorists had burnt 2 buses in Kandy and 1 at Meepitiya, Kegalle, while attempts to destroy 3 buses were foiled at Godagama, Galagedara and Nwara Eliya.

Electricity had been disrupted due to damage caused to two electric posts at Kottukachchiya, Puttalam, and as a result of 5 electric posts on the Palavi Cement Corporation Road being damaged, electricity from Chilaw to Puttalam and suburbs were also disrupted yesterday afternoon.

1 Killed, 4 Hurt in LTTE Bomb Blast

BK0308085388 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0810 GMT 3 Aug 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 Aug (LANKAPUVATH)—One civilian was killed and four others injured in an LTTE terrorist bomb blast in a shop at Kantale in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province district of Trincomalee this morning, official sources told LANKAPUVATH. The sources said a bomb had been thrown in an area at Kantale where there is a large Sinhalese farming community. Twenty-two Sinhalese have now been killed by LTTE terrorists during the past six days.

Meanwhile, a report from (Alazwa) in the Northwestern Province states that a police sergeant was shot at with an automatic [word indistinct] last night by southern terrorists who raided his home. Police Sergeant Peiris succumbed to his injuries on admission to the government hospital at Kurunagala.

At Ahangama in the Southern Province district of Galle [word indistinct] Goonewardene was shot dead by terrorists at his home at point blank range after being made to sit on a chair.